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(54) **CATHETER WITH SIDE SHEATH**

KATHETER MIT LATERALER HÜLSE

CATHETER A GAINE LATÉRALE

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Description

[0001] A type of endoprosthesis device, commonly referred to as a stent, may be placed or implanted within a vein, artery or other tubular body organ for treating occlusions, stenoses, or aneurysms of a vessel by reinforcing the wall of the vessel or by expanding the vessel. Stents have been used to treat dissections in blood vessel walls caused by balloon angioplasty of the coronary arteries as well as peripheral arteries and to improve angioplasty results by preventing elastic recoil and remodeling of the vessel wall. Two randomized multicenter trials have recently shown a lower restenosis rate in stent treated coronary arteries compared with balloon angioplasty alone (*Serruys, PW et al., New England Journal of Medicine* 331: 489-495 (1994) and *Fischman, DL et al. New England Journal of Medicine* 331:496-501 (1994)). Stents have been successfully implanted in the urinary tract, the bile duct, the esophagus and the tracheo-bronchial tree to reinforce those body organs, as well as implanted into the neurovascular, peripheral vascular, coronary, cardiac, and renal systems, among others. The term "stent" as used in this Application is a device which is intraluminally implanted within bodily vessels to reinforce collapsing, dissected, partially occluded, weakened, diseased or abnormally dilated or small segments of a vessel wall.

[0002] One of the drawbacks of conventional stents is that they are generally produced in a straight tubular configuration. The use of such stents to treat diseased vessels at or near a bifurcation (branch point) of a vessel may create a risk of compromising the degree of patency of the main vessel and/or its branches, or the bifurcation point and also limits the ability to insert a branch stent into the side branch if the result of treatment of the main, or main, vessel is suboptimal. Suboptimal results may occur as a result of several mechanisms, such as displacing diseased tissue, plaque shifting, vessel spasm, dissection with or without intimal flaps, thrombosis, and embolism.

[0003] As described in related co-pending U.S. Patent Application Nos. 08/744022 filed 11/04/96 (now abandoned); 09/007265 filed 01/14/98; 08/935,383 filed 9/23/97; and 60/088301 filed 06/05/98; and PCT Patent Application Publication No. WO 99/00835 filed 01/14/98; systems have been developed for deploying a main stent in a main vessel at the intersection of a main vessel and a branch vessel with a branch stent extending into a branch vessel through a side opening in the main stent. Unfortunately, several difficulties exist when attempting to position such an arrangement of a main and branch stents at a vessel intersection.

[0004] For example, in various approaches, the insertion of separate guidewires into both the main and branch vessels is required before the positioning of a main stent in a main vessel with a branch stent projecting through a side opening in the main stent into a branch vessel. Specifically, main and branch stents are

advanced over the separate guidewires which have been pre-guided one after another into the respective main and branch vessels, such that the main stent can be deployed within the main vessel and the branch stent can be deployed (passing through the side opening in the main stent into the branch vessel). Unfortunately, when attempting to guide two separate guidewires through the main vessel such that one enters the branch vessel, the two guidewires typically tend to wrap around one another and become entangled. Accordingly, time and effort is required to individually position each of the two guidewires one after another.

[0005] An additional disadvantage of positioning conventional stents is the difficulty in visualizing the stents during and after deployment, and in general, the fact that they are not readily imaged by low-cost and easy methods, such as x-ray or ultrasound imaging.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] As will be explained, an advantage of the present system is that it may be used for deploying a main stent in a main vessel with a side hole in the main stent positioned at a branch vessel. Optionally, the system may further position a branch stent in the branch vessel, wherein the branch stent is deployed through an opening in the side of the main stent with the side opening being in registry with the ostium of the branch vessel. In various aspects of the present invention, another advantage of the present system is that it avoids having to separately position first and second guidewires within the respective main and branch vessels prior to deployment of main and branch stents thereover. Rather, in various aspects of the present invention, only a single guidewire needs to initially be placed within the main vessel, with the present system subsequently deploying both the main and branch stents thereover.

[0007] In addition, methods are proposed of positioning a main stent at a vessel bifurcation such that a side opening in the main stent is positioned in registry with the ostium of a branch vessel. In preferred aspects, a first guidewire is positioned in the main vessel such that a distal end of the main guidewire extends past the bifurcation. Thereafter, the present system, (comprising either a main catheter with a slidably positionable side sheath or side catheter, or a main catheter with an attached, non-sliding, side sheath or side catheter), is advanced to a position proximate the bifurcation, wherein the main catheter is advanced over the main guidewire, and wherein the main stent is positioned over the main catheter. In preferred aspects, the distal end of the flexible side sheath (or second catheter) is positioned to pass through the interior of the main stent, (which positioned over the distal end of the main catheter), and out of the side opening in the main stent.

[0008] Thereafter, a branch guidewire is advanced through the flexible side sheath (or second catheter) into the branch vessel. To assist in guiding the second

guidewire into the branch vessel, the flexible side sheath (or second catheter) may preferably taper to a narrow distal end, which may also be curved slightly outwardly.

[0009] Subsequently, the system is advanced with the main catheter advancing over the first guidewire as the flexible side sheath (or second catheter) concurrently advances over the second (ie: branch) guidewire. In one aspect, the side opening in the main stent is positioned in alignment with the ostium of the branch vessel due solely to the presence of the second guidewire extending from an interior of the main stent out through the side opening in the main stent and into the branch vessel.

[0010] In the first aspect of the invention, (in which the flexible side sheath or second catheter is slidably moveable with respect to a main catheter), the second lumen of the dual lumen catheter (through which the flexible side sheath or second catheter passes) is preferably formed from Pebax and graphite, thereby reducing sliding friction when the flexible side sheath (or second catheter) is passed therethrough. Accordingly, the distal end of the side sheath, (which is received through the second lumen of the dual lumen catheter), can easily be slidably positioned to a desired location at the intersection of the main and branch vessels such that the dual lumen catheter can be positioned at a desired location to deploy the main stent within the main vessel.

[0011] In a second aspect not forming part of the invention, (in which the flexible side sheath or second catheter is not slidably moveable with respect to the main catheter, but is instead attached thereto), the distal end of the side sheath, (or second catheter), is positioned at a desired location at the intersection of the main and branch vessels by advancing the main catheter over the first guidewire in the main vessel such that the main catheter can be positioned at a desired location to deploy the main stent within the main vessel.

[0012] In either aspect of the invention, after the distal end of the side sheath (or second catheter) is positioned at the vessel intersection, a second guidewire can then be advanced through the side sheath (or second catheter) to pass out of the distal end of the side sheath (or second catheter), preferably passing through the side opening in the main stent and into the branch vessel, thereby aligning the side opening of the main stent in registry with the ostium of the branch vessel. Thereafter, the main stent may be deployed within the main vessel, such as by inflating a first balloon disposed over the first guidewire at a distal end of the main catheter.

[0013] A method is proposed of delivering main and branch stents into the intersection of a main vessel and a branch vessel such that a side opening in the main stent is positioned in registry with the ostium of the branch vessel, and such that the branch stent extends through the side opening in the main stent and into the branch vessel. In a preferred aspect, this is accomplished by deploying a main stent within the main vessel such that a side opening in the main stent is in registry with the ostium of the branch vessel with a second

guidewire passing out through the side opening in the main stent and into the branch vessel, as described above. A branch stent is then subsequently advanced over the second guidewire and into the branch vessel such that the branch stent passes out through the side opening in the main stent and into the branch vessel. (A separate deployment catheter, or alternatively, the second catheter itself may be used for positioning and deploying the branch stent in the branch vessel). The main stent may optionally include radially expandable portions which protrude outwardly from the side opening in the main stent and into the walls of the branch vessel, holding the side opening in registry with the ostium of the branch vessel.

[0014] In an optional preferred aspect, the side opening in the main stent is positioned in alignment with the ostium of the branch vessel by viewing relative movement of radiopaque markers positioned on each of the main catheter and the flexible side sheath (or second catheter). In this aspect, the relative marker movement indicates that the distal portion of the flexible side sheath (or second catheter) which is positioned adjacent the side opening in the main stent is advancing into the ostium of the branch vessel, thereby indicating the position of the side opening of the main stent with respect to the ostium of the branch vessel. In this aspect, the flexible side sheath (or second catheter) will deflect into the branch vessel as it is advanced over the second guidewire, (while the main catheter itself moves distally along through the main vessel over the first guidewire).

[0015] Such relative movement of the radiopaque markers may be viewed as a rotation of a marker positioned on the flexible side sheath with respect to a marker(s) positioned on the main catheter, or as a separation between the marker on the flexible side sheath (or second catheter) with respect to a marker(s) on the main catheter. In certain aspects, the marker on the flexible side sheath (or second catheter) is positioned adjacent a marker on the main catheter, such that the relative marker motion will be viewable in an image as a separation occurring between the two markers. In addition, markers may be positioned at the distal ends of the flexible side sheath (or second catheter) and the main catheter, such that the separation between these markers will be relatively larger, and thus can be easily viewed. Moreover, when the markers are positioned at the distal ends of the main stent and side member, the surgeon will view the separation of these markers earlier than would be the case if these markers were disposed at a more proximal location.

[0016] In addition, a plurality of markers may be positioned on the catheter with a marker positioned at locations corresponding to each of the proximal and distal ends of the main stent. A medial marker may also be included, positioned halfway between the distal and proximal markers, for indicating the position of the side hole in the main stent, (which is preferably positioned halfway between the distal and proximal ends of the

stent).

[0017] In a preferred aspect, the relative movement of the markers positioned on the catheter and those positioned on the flexible side sheath (or second catheter) can be observed fluoroscopically as the markers are radiopaque and are preferably made of suitable materials including tungsten and gold.

[0018] In additional aspects, the main stent is deployed in the main vessel, (such as by an inflatable balloon at the distal end of the main catheter). Thereafter, a branch stent may be advanced through the at least partially deployed main stent and positioned in the branch vessel. Preferably, the branch stent is advanced through the at least partially deployed main stent by a catheter which then deploys the branch stent in the branch vessel, (such as by an inflatable balloon at the distal end of the deployment catheter).

[0019] In the first aspect of the invention (in which the flexible side sheath is slidably movable with respect to the main catheter) the branch stent can be deployed by first removing the side sheath from the second lumen of the dual lumen catheter, thereby leaving the second guidewire in position in the branch vessel. Thereafter, the deployment catheter can then be advanced over the second guide wire with its distal end extending into the branch vessel. A balloon disposed on the distal end of this deployment catheter can then be used to deploy the branch stent within the branch vessel. Alternately, the entire catheter system (comprising both the main catheter and the slidably attached side sheath) can be removed leaving the two guidewires in place such that the deployment catheter can be advanced over the second guidewire and into the branch vessel.

[0020] In a second aspect which does not form part of the invention (in which the flexible side sheath is not slidably movable with respect to the main catheter) the branch stent may be deployed by removing the entire system, (comprising both the main catheter and attached flexible side sheath), leaving the two guidewires in place such that the deployment catheter can then be advanced over the second guidewire and into the branch vessel. As such, the second catheter can then be advanced over the second guide wire with its distal end extending into the branch vessel.

[0021] Alternatively the first and second guidewires may first be positioned in the respective main and branch vessels. Thereafter, the main catheter can be advanced over the first guidewire and the flexible side sheath can simultaneously be advanced over the second guidewire. As such, a surgeon viewing movement between markers on the main catheter and the flexible side sheath can see exactly when and where the flexible side sheath enters the branch vessel.

[0022] The branch stent may optionally comprise a contact portion at its proximal end to secure the proximal end of the branch stent to the interior of the main stent through the side opening in the main stent.

[0023] In preferred aspects of the present invention,

the distal end of the side sheath is positioned at the intersection of the main vessel and the branch vessel by viewing its position under fluoroscopy. Also, in preferred aspects, the second guidewire is inserted through the side sheath (or second catheter) and into the branch vessel under fluoroscopic viewing.

[0024] The present invention also comprises an apparatus for aligning a side opening in a main stent in registry with the ostium of the branch vessel. In a first aspect, the invention comprises a dual lumen catheter system in which a first guidewire is slidably received within a first lumen of the main catheter and a side sheath (or alternatively, the second catheter) is slidably received within the second lumen of this dual lumen catheter. A second guidewire is slidably received within the lumen of the side sheath. In a second aspect, the invention comprises a main catheter with an attached flexible side sheath (or second catheter).

[0025] To assist in guiding the second guidewire into the branch vessel in either aspect of the invention, the side sheath (or second catheter) may preferably taper to a narrow distal end, which may be curved slightly outwardly and which may preferably comprise tungsten or other suitable radiopaque material such that it may be fluoroscopically viewed. In various preferred aspects, a first balloon is disposed over the first guidewire at a distal end of the dual lumen catheter and a second balloon is disposed over the second guidewire at a distal end of the second catheter (ie: the deployment catheter) which can be received within the second lumen of the dual lumen catheter.

[0026] In various aspects of the invention, an advantage of the present stent delivery system is that it avoids having to separately position first and second guidewires within the respective main and branch vessels prior to deployment of the main and branch stents thereover. Rather, with the present invention, only a single guidewire needs to initially be placed within the main vessel, with the delivery system subsequently deploying both the main and branch stents thereover.

[0027] The main stent may optionally include outwardly expandable portions which can be expanded from an initial position which is flush with the cylindrical body of the stent to protrude outwardly from the side opening in the main stent, thereby anchoring into the walls of the branch vessel, holding the side opening in registry with the ostium of the branch vessel. In an exemplary aspect, the cylindrical body of the main stent has an even surface, with an expandable portion positioned within the side opening of the cylindrical body, such that it is flush with the cylindrical body prior to expansion.

[0028] In addition, the branch stent may optionally comprise a contacting portion at its proximal end to secure the proximal end of the branch stent to the side opening in the main stent. In an exemplary aspect, the contacting portion comprises a flared proximal end.

[0029] Applications of the present system include the

cardiac, coronary, renal, peripheral vascular, gastrointestinal, pulmonary, urinary and neurovascular systems and the brain. Further advantages of the present stent delivery system are that it provides an improved stent delivery apparatus, which may deliver main and branch stents to: 1) completely cover the bifurcation point of bifurcation vessels; 2) be used to treat lesions in one branch of a bifurcation while preserving access to the other branch for future treatment; 3) allow for differential sizing of the stents in a bifurcated stent apparatus even after a main stent is implanted; 4) treat bifurcation lesions in a bifurcated vessel where the branch vessel extends from the side of the main vessel; and 5) be marked with, or at least partly constructed of, material which is imageable by commonly used intraluminal catheterization visualization techniques including but not limited to ultrasound or x-ray.

[0030] As described herein, a side hole in the main stent refers to a relatively large hole which is intended to be aligned with the ostium of the branch vessel, as opposed to being any of the multiple passageways through the side of the main stent between respective struts in the stent geometry. Accordingly, the side hole in the main stent is a hole which is understood to be larger than other passages through the stent. In preferred aspects, this side hole is defined by a band of continuous material which defines the perimeter of the side hole. This continuous band of material preferably comprises discontinuities over its length so that the area of the side hole expands together with the expansion of the stent. In various aspects, the continuous band comprises protrusions which project inwardly from a peripheral edge of the side opening. Preferably, these protrusions (or expandable portions) are initially aligned within a cylindrical envelope of the tubular body of the main stent.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0031]

Fig 1. is an illustration of a first aspect of the present invention comprising a dual lumen catheter with a main catheter and an attached slidably movable side sheath, the side sheath being slidably received within a second lumen of the dual lumen catheter. Fig 2. is an illustration of a dual lumen catheter having similar to Fig. 1, but having a second catheter slidably received within a second lumen of the dual lumen catheter, with balloons positioned on the distal ends of both of the main catheter and the second catheter. Fig 3 is an illustration of a second aspect of the present stent delivery system, showing a main catheter with a flexible side sheath attached thereto. Fig 4 is a close up illustration of the distal end of the stent delivery system of Fig. 3 with a main stent positioned thereon.

Fig. 5 is a sectional side elevation view corresponding Fig. 4, showing the markers in alignment, prior to entering the branch vessel.

Fig. 6 is an illustration of a placement of first guidewire within a main vessel.

Fig. 7 is an illustration of the main catheter and side sheath of Fig. 1 advanced over the first guidewire to a position where the side opening in the main stent is adjacent with the ostium of the branch vessel.

Fig. 8A is an illustration corresponding to Fig. 7, but with the second guidewire advanced out of the distal end of the side sheath, through the side opening in the main stent and into the branch vessel.

Fig. 8B corresponds to Fig. 8A, but with the flexible side sheath removed.

Fig. 9 is an illustration corresponding to Fig. 8B, but with the branch stent advanced over the second guidewire and through the side opening in the main stent and into the branch vessel by a second catheter received within the second lumen of the dual lumen catheter.

Fig. 10 is an illustration of the deployment of the branch stent of Fig. 9 by a second balloon disposed over the second guidewire.

Fig. 11 is an illustration of the catheter and attached flexible side sheath of Figs. 3 and 4 advanced over the first guidewire to a position near the ostium of the branch vessel.

Fig. 12 is an illustration corresponding to Fig. 11, but with the second guidewire advanced out of the distal end of the side sheath, through a side opening in a main stent and into the branch vessel.

Fig. 13 is an illustration corresponding to Fig. 12, but with the catheter and attached flexible side sheath advanced over the first and second guidewire such that the distal end of the flexible side sheath is deflected into the branch vessel, showing the separation between radiopaque markers on the catheter and flexible side sheath.

Fig. 14 is a sectional side elevation view corresponding Fig. 13.

Fig. 15 is an illustration corresponding to Fig. 14, but showing the main catheter and flexible side sheath removed with a branch stent (positioned on a deployment catheter) advanced over the second guidewire and through the side opening in the main stent and into the branch vessel.

Fig. 16 is an illustration corresponding to Fig. 14, but showing the branch stent (positioned on a deployment balloon attached to the flexible side sheath) advanced over the second guidewire and through the side opening in the main stent and into the branch vessel.

Fig. 17 is an illustration of the further deployment of the branch stent of Fig. 15 by a balloon disposed on a deployment catheter received over the second guidewire.

Fig. 18 is an illustration of the fully deployed main and branch stents with the guidewires and stent delivery system removed (as deployed by either the first aspect of the invention as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 or the second aspect of the invention as illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4).

Fig. 19 shows an embodiment of the present invention with outwardly expandable portions disposed around the side opening on the main stent fully deployed.

Fig. 20 is a side elevation view of the system of Fig. 4, showing both proximal and distal ends of an aspect of the present invention, showing exemplary dimensions..

Fig. 21 is another illustration of the distal end of the system shown in Figs. 4 and 5.,

Fig. 22 is an illustration of a preferred aspect of the proximal end of the present invention, suitable for use both with the aspect of the invention shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and in Figs. 4 and 5.

Fig. 23 is an illustration of a kit comprising the present apparatus, and instructions for use.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

[0032] The present invention provides systems for positioning first and second guidewires in respective main and branch vessels at a vessel bifurcation. In additional aspects, a system for aligning the side hole in a main stent in registry with the ostium of a branch vessel is provided. In further additional aspects, main and branch stents are deployed in the bifurcation over the first and second guidewires.

[0033] Figs. 1, 2 and 6 to 10 show a first aspect of the present invention according to claim 1.

[0034] Figs. 3 to 5 and 11 to 17 and 21 show design alternatives which do not form part of the present invention.

[0035] Fig. 18 shows a fully deployed main and branch stent which may be deployed, and Fig. 19 shows an embodiment of the present invention with outwardly expandable portions disposed around the side opening on the main stent fully deployed.

Main Catheter with Slidably Positionable Side Sheath (Figs. 1, 2 and 6 to 10):

[0036] A novel catheter system is provided for accomplishing the preferred methods. The present catheter system comprises a dual lumen catheter having a guidewire received through its first lumen. In one aspect of the invention, a side sheath is slidably received through the second lumen of the dual lumen catheter. A second guidewire is received through the side sheath and the side sheath is slidably positionable (with respect to a main catheter) so as to optionally align a side hole in a main stent disposed on a main catheter with the ostium of a branch vessel.

[0037] In an alternative aspect, a second catheter is instead slidably received through the second lumen of the dual lumen catheter. The second catheter may optionally have a balloon disposed at its distal end such that first and second balloons are disposed over the first and second guidewires at the distal ends of the respective main and second catheters, for deploying main and branch stents respectively.

[0038] Referring to Fig. 1, a dual lumen catheter system 10 is provided comprising a main catheter 12 and a side sheath 14, wherein side sheath 14 is slidably received within lumen 15 which may be formed as an extending side portion 9 of catheter 12 such that side sheath 14 can be axially displaced with respect to catheter 12. The interior lumen 15 of extending side portion 9 is preferably formed to reduce sliding friction with side sheath 14. In a preferred aspect, extending side portion 9 of catheter 12 forming lumen 15 is fabricated of Pebax with graphite. Alternatively, the inner surface of lumen 15 may have metal powders, glass beads, Teflon powder or other inorganic fillers imbedded therein.

[0039] Side sheath 14 is flexible, (which aids in positioning its distal end to pass through a side hole in a main stent, as will be explained).

[0040] As will be explained with reference to Figs. 7 to 10, an advantage of the present dual lumen catheter 12 is that catheter 12 can be positioned at a desired location so as to align side hole 27 of main stent 25 at the ostium of a branch vessel by positioning the distal end 16 of side sheath 14 at the ostium of the branch vessel. Specifically, in a preferred aspect method of using the present system, dual lumen catheter 12 can be positioned proximal the intersection of the main and branch vessels to deploy a main stent 25 in the main vessel M with side sheath 14 positioned at the vessel intersection I to deploy a second guidewire 31 passing out through side hole 27 in main stent 25 and into branch vessel Br such that only one guidewire 21 needs to initially be positioned within main vessel M prior to subsequent deployment of main and branch stents 25 and 40.

[0041] As can be seen in Fig. 2, a second catheter 20 can instead be slidably received in lumen 15 (in place of side sheath 14). A balloon 13 disposed at the distal end of dual lumen catheter 10 may be used to deploy a main stent in a main vessel. In this aspect of the invention, side sheath 14 may preferably be first removed (ie: withdrawn over guidewire 31) after guide wire 31 has been positioned in the branch vessel. Alternatively, guidewire 31 may instead be positioned in branch vessel Br by second catheter 20, such that side sheath 14 is not required. The second catheter 20 having a balloon 13 disposed at its distal end is then advanced over guide wire 31 with balloon 13 deploying an optional branch stent 40, as will be explained.

[0042] In a preferred aspect, the present invention is directed to aligning a side hole in a main stent to a position in registry with the ostium of a branch vessel. This first aspect of the invention is illustrated in the sequential

steps shown in Figs. 6 to 8.

[0043] In another preferred aspect, the present invention is directed to deploying a branch stent in a branch vessel with the branch stent extending into the branch vessel through a side opening in the main stent. This second aspect of the present invention is illustrated in the sequential steps shown in Figs. 9 and 10. (The sequential steps shown in Figs. 9 and 10 are accomplished after the sequential steps shown in Figs. 6 to 8).

[0044] Referring first to Fig. 6, a first guidewire 21 is advanced through a main vessel M in direction D such that distal end 22 of guidewire 21 extends past the intersection of a main vessel M and a branch vessel Br.

[0045] As shown in Fig. 7, main catheter 12 is then advanced in direction D over guidewire 21 such that a main stent 25, (which is supported at a distal end of catheter 12, as shown), is oriented such that side hole 27 of stent 25 is positioned generally adjacent the ostium of branch vessel Br. (Guidewire 21 is received within a lumen in catheter 12.) As can be seen, stent 25 may preferably be crimped down onto the distal end of side sheath 14, as shown. Preferably, distal end 16 of catheter 14 has tungsten, or other suitable radiopaque material, deposited thereon such that it can be viewed and positioned fluoroscopically. Preferably, stent 25 is initially crimped onto balloon 11 with distal end 16 of side sheath 14 projecting outwardly through side opening 27 as shown. As such, fluoroscopic positioning of distal end 16 aligns side opening 27 to branch vessel Br, as main catheter 12 supporting stent 25 and side sheath 14 initially move together when stent 25 is initially crimped onto balloon 11.

[0046] As shown in Fig. 8A, after distal end 16 of catheter 14 is positioned as shown, a second guidewire 31 can then be advanced out of distal end 16 of side sheath 14, passing through side opening 27 in stent 25 and into branch vessel Br. As also shown, balloon 11 may be partially or fully inflated, thereby expanding main stent 25 so as to provide an access space for a distal end 26 of second catheter 20 (Fig. 9) to be advanced there-through, (after side sheath 14 has been removed as shown in Fig. 8B). Alternatively, second catheter 20 (as shown in Fig. 9) can instead be used in place of side sheath 14 to deploy guidewire 31, (avoiding the step shown in Fig. 8A and 8B). In one aspect, main stent 25 is at least partially deployed within main vessel M; and the distal end of second catheter 20 is then received within the at least partially deployed main stent 25.

[0047] In further optional aspects of the present invention, additional sequential steps, as illustrated in Figs. 9 and 10, are carried out after the steps illustrated in Figs. 6 to 8B to deploy a branch stent in a branch vessel with the branch stent extending through a side opening in the main stent. Specifically, Fig. 9 is similar to Fig. 8B, but side sheath 14 has instead been replaced with second catheter 20 which has been advanced over guidewire 31. Branch stent 40 is disposed on the distal end 26 of catheter 20. As shown in Fig. 9, distal end 26 of catheter

20 can be advanced over guidewire 31 such that stent 40 is advanced through side hole 27 in stent 25 and is positioned in branch vessel Br. In various aspects of the invention, side sheath 14 is used to position guidewire 31, and is then removed and replaced by second catheter 20. In alternate aspects, second catheter 20 is instead used to position guidewire 31 itself.

[0048] As shown in Fig. 10, stent 40 can then be fully deployed within branch vessel Br by inflating second balloon 13 disposed at distal end 26 of catheter 20. Main stent 25 can be fully deployed by inflation of balloon 11 either before, after or concurrently with, branch stent 40 being deployed by inflation of balloon 13. As can also be seen in Fig. 18, stent 40 may further comprise a contact portion 42 which remains disposed within side opening 27 thereby securing the proximal end of stent 40 to side opening 27 of stent 25, thereby providing a bifurcated stent arrangement covering vessel intersection 1.

[0049] Lastly, as can also be seen in Fig. 18, catheter system 10, (comprising catheter 12, side sheath 14 or catheter 20, and guidewires 21 and 31) can be removed after deployment of stents 25 and 40, leaving a bifurcated support at the intersection of main vessel P and branch vessel Br as shown.

[0050] As shown in the optional step of Fig. 19, balloon 13 on catheter 14 can then be inflated to deploy radially expandable portions 29 extending laterally outward from the edges of side opening 27, such that portions 29 arc pushed against the walls of branch vessel Br, such that side opening 27 is positioned in registry with the ostium of branch vessel Br. Further description of such radially expandable portions 29 which extend laterally outward from the edges of side opening 27 is set forth in Published PCT Patent Application WO 99/00835, filed 01/14/98, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[0051] The present invention also provides a method of aligning a side opening 27 in a main stent 25 in registry with the ostium of a branch vessel Br, comprising:

advancing a first guidewire 21 through a main vessel M such that a distal end of guidewire 21 extends past intersection I of main vessel M and the branch vessel Br; advancing main stent 25 over first guidewire 21 with a dual lumen catheter system 10, wherein first guidewire 21 is received within a first lumen of main catheter 12; positioning a side sheath 14 received through the second lumen of dual lumen catheter system 10 such that a distal end 16 of side sheath 14 is positioned at intersection I of main vessel M and branch vessel Br; and advancing second guidewire 31 through side sheath 14 and out through the side opening 27 in main stent 25 and into branch vessel Br, thereby aligning side opening 27 in main stent 25 with the ostium of branch vessel Br. In additional aspects, a branch stent 40 is advanced over second guidewire 31 and

out through the side opening 27 in main stent 25 and into the branch vessel Br by second catheter 20.

[0052] In additional aspects, side sheath 14 is positioned through the second lumen of dual lumen catheter 20 such that distal end 16 of side sheath 14 is positioned at intersection 1 of main vessel M and branch vessel Br by viewing the position of the distal end of the second catheter 20 under fluoroscopy. In additional aspects, second guidewire 31 is advanced through side sheath 14 and into branch vessel Br by viewing the position of the distal end of second guidewire 31 under fluoroscopy.

[0053] In preferred aspects, a first balloon 11 is disposed at a distal end of the dual lumen catheter 10 over first guidewire 31; and a second balloon 13 is disposed at a distal end of second catheter 20 over second guidewire 31.

Main Catheter with Attached Side Sheath (Figs. 3 to 5 and 11 to 17 and 21):

[0054] A stent delivery system is provided for accomplishing the preferred methods. Referring to Figs. 3 to 5, the present stent delivery system 110 comprises a first catheter 112 having an attached flexible side sheath 114. An inflatable balloon 111 may optionally be positioned at the distal end of first catheter 112. As is shown in Figs. 12 to 14, first catheter 112 is receivable over a first guidewire 121 and flexible side sheath 114 is receivable over a second guidewire 131. The present stent delivery system 110 can be used to advantageously position first and second guidewires in respective main and branch vessels. In further aspects of the invention, the present stent delivery system 110 can be used to position main and branch stents in the main and branch vessels (over the respective main and branch guidewires).

[0055] In another aspect of the invention, guidewires 121 and 131 are pre-positioned in respective main and branch vessels and stent delivery system 110 is advanced simultaneously thereover into vessel intersection I. In this aspect, the location of the vessel intersection and the moment in time at which side sheath 114 enters branch vessel Br can be determined by fluoroscopically viewing relative marker band rotation or separation as will be explained.

[0056] Referring to Fig. 4, stent 125 can be crimped down onto flexible side sheath 114, as shown. Preferably, stent 125 is initially crimped onto balloon 111 with distal end 116 of side sheath 114 projecting outwardly through side opening 127 as shown. Fig. 21 is another illustration of the distal end of the system shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

[0057] A method is provided of positioning main stent 125 at a vessel bifurcation (intersection I) such that a side opening 127 in main stent 125 is positioned at the ostium of a branch vessel Br, as follows.

[0058] Referring to Fig. 6, a main guidewire 121 is first

positioned in the main vessel M such that a distal end 122 of main guidewire 121 extends past vessel intersection I. Referring next to Fig. 11, stent delivery system 110 is then advanced to a position proximate vessel intersection I, wherein catheter 112 is received over first guidewire 121, and wherein main stent 125 is positioned over catheter 112 with flexible side sheath 114 positioned to pass through the interior of main stent 125 and out of side opening 127 in main stent 125, as shown. As shown in Fig. 12, second guidewire 131 is then advanced through flexible side sheath 114 attached to catheter 112 and into branch vessel Br. In an alternate aspect, guidewires 121 and 131 are pre-positioned in respective main and branch vessels M and Br, and system 110 is advanced thereover, with main catheter 112 passing over guidewire 121 and flexible side sheath 114 passing over guidewire 131.

[0059] In one aspect, side opening 127 in main stent 125 is positioned in alignment with the ostium of branch vessel Br simply by the presence of second guidewire 131 (and flexible side sheath 114) extending from an interior of main stent 125 out through side opening 127 in main stent 125 and into branch vessel Br. In this aspect, the insertion of a branch stent over guidewire 131 through side opening 127 in main stent 125 and into branch vessel Br serves to align the side opening 127 with the ostium of branch vessel Br.

[0060] In another more preferred aspect, however, stent delivery system 110, (comprising catheter 112 and attached flexible side sheath 114), are subsequently advanced distally in direction D to the position as shown in Fig. 13 and 14, with catheter 112 being advanced over first guidewire 121 while flexible side sheath 114 is advanced over second guidewire 131. In this aspect, an operator views relative movement between a radiopaque marker positioned on the flexible side sheath with respect to at least one radiopaque marker positioned on the catheter, wherein the relative marker movement indicates that a portion of the flexible side sheath adjacent the side opening in the main stent is advancing into the ostium of the branch vessel, thereby indicating the position of side opening 127 of main stent 125 with respect to the ostium of branch vessel Br.

[0061] Specifically, referring to Figs. 5 and 14, a distal marker 150, a proximal marker 151 and a medial marker 152 may be disposed on catheter 112. Preferably, the location of proximal marker 151 corresponds to the location of the proximal end of stent 125, the location of distal marker 150 corresponds to the location of the distal end of stent 125, and the location of medial marker 152 corresponds to the location of side opening 127 of stent 125. At least one marker 155 is positioned on flexible side sheath 114 as shown. Preferably, marker 155 is positioned adjacent to medial marker 152. In addition, a marker 159 may be positioned at the distal end of side sheath 114. As such, the separation between markers 159 and 150 can be observed from the point in time when the distal end of side sheath 114 initially starts to

advance into branch vessel Br over second guidewire 131.

[0062] As can be seen by comparing Figs. 5 and 14, as stent delivery system 110 is advanced distally such that the distal end of flexible side sheath 114 is received in branch vessel Br, (Fig. 14), marker 155 will move in direction R relative to markers 150, 151 and 152. In particular, an increasing separation distance will occur between marker 155 positioned on flexible side sheath 114 and marker 152 positioned on catheter 112 as catheter 112 is advanced distally over first guidewire 121 while flexible side sheath 114 is simultaneously advanced distally over second guidewire 131.

[0063] In an additional aspect, each of markers 152 and 155 are slightly elongated and rectangle shaped, (as shown), such that relative rotational movement therebetween can also be observed. Markers 150, 151, 152, 155 and 159 may be made of tungsten or gold.

[0064] When the operator views the relative motion (rotation or increasing separation) between markers 152 and 155, this indicates that a portion of flexible side sheath 114 has entered the ostium of branch vessel Br. By viewing the position of markers 150, 151 and 152, the operator can also determine the position of the distal and proximal ends of stent 25 and the position of side opening 127 with respect to the ostium of branch vessel Br.

[0065] Systems are provided for deploying a branch stent into branch vessel Br with main stent 125 positioned such that side opening 127 is in registry with the ostium of branch vessel Br. In these aspects, as illustrated in Figs. 15 through 19, branch stent 140 is advanced through the interior of main stent 125, passing through side opening 127 and into branch vessel Br.

[0066] Fig. 15 is an illustration of branch stent 140, (disposed on the distal end of a deployment catheter 126), being advanced over second guidewire 131, passing through side opening 127 in main stent 125 into branch vessel Br. As can be seen, in one aspect, main catheter 112 of stent delivery system 110 may be used to deploy main stent 125 and then system 110 may be removed. Thereafter, a second (deployment) catheter 126 can be advanced over second guidewire 131 to position stent 140 for deployment in the branch vessel.

[0067] In an alternative aspect, as shown in Fig. 16, stent 125 may be partially deployed in main vessel M by balloon 11 and branch stent 140 may be partially deployed in branch vessel Br by an optional balloon 115 on the distal end of side sheath 114 which is advanced through the partially expanded interior of main stent 125, passing out through side opening 127 in main stent 125 while stent delivery system 110 remains adjacent vessel intersection I.

[0068] Fig. 17 is an illustration of the deployment of branch stent 140 by a balloon 113 disposed on the distal end of second catheter 126, which is itself received over second guidewire 131. In this aspect an inflatable balloon 113 disposed at the distal end of second catheter

126 is used to deploy branch stent 140.

[0069] Fig. 18 is an illustration of the fully deployed main and branch stents 125 and 140 with guidewires 121 and 131 and stent delivery system 110 removed. As can also be seen, stent 140 may further comprise a contact portion 142 which remains disposed within side opening 127 thereby securing the proximal end of stent 140 to side opening 127 of stent 125, thereby providing a bifurcated stent arrangement covering vessel intersection I. Such a contacting portion 142 is further described in co-pending PCT Patent Application WO 99/00835, filed 01/14/98.

[0070] Lastly, Fig. 19 shows an embodiment of the present invention with outwardly expandable portions disposed around the side opening on the main stent. Specifically, balloon 113 on catheter 126 can also be inflated to deploy radially expandable portions 129 which extend laterally outward from an initial position flush with the cylindrical body of stent 125 to a position where portions 129, (disposed around the edges of side opening 127), are anchored against the walls of branch vessel Br, such that side opening 127 is positioned in registry with the ostium of branch vessel Br. Further description of such radially expandable portions 129 which extend laterally outward from the edges of side opening 127 is set forth in Published PCT Patent Application No. WO 99/00835 filed 01/14/98.

[0071] The present invention also provides kits comprising the apparatus of the present invention and instructions for use setting forth any of the herein disclosed methods for use.

[0072] A method of positioning a main stent 125 at a vessel bifurcation (intersection I) is provided such that a side opening 127 in main stent 125 is positioned at the ostium of branch vessel Br, comprising: positioning a main guidewire 121 in the main vessel M such that a distal end of the main guidewire 121 extends past the bifurcation; advancing a stent delivery system 110 to a position proximate the bifurcation I, the stent delivery system 110 comprising a catheter 112 with a flexible side sheath 114 attached thereto, wherein catheter 112 is received over main guidewire 121, and wherein the main stent 125 is positioned over catheter 112 with the flexible side sheath 114 positioned to pass through the interior of main stent 125 and out of side opening 127 in main stent 125; advancing a branch guidewire 131 through flexible side sheath 114 attached to catheter 112 and into branch vessel Br; and subsequently, advancing catheter 112 over the main guidewire 121 while advancing flexible side sheath 114 over branch guidewire 131 while viewing relative movement of a marker 155 or 159 positioned on the flexible side sheath with respect to at least one marker 151, 152, 150 positioned on catheter 112, wherein the relative movement indicates that a portion of flexible side sheath 114 adjacent side opening 127 in main stent 125 is advancing into the ostium of branch vessel Br, thereby indicating the position of side opening 127 of main stent 125 with respect to the ostium

of branch vessel Br.

[0073] In various aspects, viewing relative movement of a marker 155 or 159 positioned on flexible side sheath 114 with respect to at least one marker 151, 152, 150 positioned on catheter 112, comprises: viewing an increasing separation distance between marker(s) 155, 159 positioned on flexible side sheath 114 with respect to at least one marker 150, 151, 152 positioned on catheter 112 as catheter 112 is advanced over first guidewire 121 while flexible side sheath 114 is simultaneously advanced over second guidewire 131.

[0074] In preferred aspects, viewing the at least one marker positioned on the catheter comprises viewing markers positioned adjacent the distal and proximal ends of the main stent.

[0075] In additional aspects, the distal end of a second catheter 126 is advanced over branch guidewire 131 and into branch vessel Br. A branch stent 140 may then be deployed within branch vessel Br, wherein branch stent 140 is positioned on the distal end of second catheter 126.

[0076] In additional aspects, a method of positioning a main stent 125 at a vessel bifurcation (intersection I) is provided such that a side opening 127 in main stent 125 is positioned at the ostium of branch vessel Br, comprising: positioning a main guidewire 121 in the main vessel M such that a distal end of main guidewire 121 extends past the bifurcation; advancing a stent delivery system 110 to a position proximate the bifurcation, the stent delivery system comprising a catheter 112 with a flexible side sheath 114 attached thereto, wherein catheter 112 is received over main guidewire 121, and wherein main stent 125 is positioned over catheter 112 with flexible side sheath 114 positioned to pass through the interior of main stent 125 and out of side opening 127 in main stent 125; advancing branch guidewire 131 through flexible side sheath 114 and into branch vessel Br; and subsequently, advancing catheter 112 over main guidewire 121 while advancing flexible side sheath 114 over branch guidewire 131 such that side opening 127 in main stent 125 is positioned at the ostium of branch vessel Br.

[0077] The present invention also comprises a stent delivery system 110 for positioning a main stent 125 at a vessel bifurcation I such that side opening 127 in main stent 125 is positioned at the ostium of branch vessel Br, comprising: first guidewire 121; catheter 112 receivable over first guidewire 121, catheter 112 having at least one marker 150, 151, 152 positioned thereon; a flexible side sheath 114 attached to catheter 112, flexible side sheath 114 having at least one marker 155, 159 positioned thereon; and a second guidewire 131 receivable through the flexible side sheath.

[0078] This aspect of the invention may further comprise a main stent 125 positioned on catheter 112, and at least one marker 155, 159 positioned on delivery system 110, preferably comprising distal and proximal markers 150 and 151.

[0079] In another aspect, the present invention comprises: a stent delivery system 110 for positioning a main stent 125 at a vessel bifurcation I such that a side opening 127 in main stent 125 is positioned at the ostium of branch vessel Br, comprising: a catheter 112 having at least one marker 150, 151, 152 positioned thereon; and a flexible side sheath 114 attached to catheter 112, flexible side sheath 114 having at least one marker 155, 159 positioned thereon.

Proximal End of Guidewire Delivery System (Figs. 20 and 22):

[0080] The present invention also provides a novel mechanism disposed at the proximal end of present invention, for simultaneously handling respective main and branch guidewires. Referring to Fig. 20, a guidewire hub 200 is adapted with channels 201 and 202 passing therethrough in which guidewires 121 and 131 are passed, as shown. Alternatively, guidewire hub 200 can instead be used to receive guidewires 21 and 31 therethrough. The dimensions shown in Fig. 20 are understood to be exemplary, not limiting. As can be seen in Fig. 20, side sheath 114 and main catheter 112 separate from one another at point 117, which may be approximately 10 cm from their respective distal ends. Such a length of separation has been founded to be advantageous when rotating system 110 as it is being advanced distally in a patient.

[0081] As can be seen in Fig. 22, guidewires 21 and 31 (or 121 and 131) are preferably received through guidewire hub 200 such that the guidewires are positioned at an angle to one another. Preferably, this angle ranges from 0° to 20°. In a preferred aspect, this angle is less than or equal to 10°. An advantage of angling the guidewires with respect to one another in this fashion, at these preferred angles, is that excessive friction is avoided when positioning or moving the guidewires. As such, simultaneous handling of the wires is facilitated. In addition, the guidewires are held close enough together such that an operator is able to simultaneously grasp and hold onto both guidewires with one hand while withdrawing the system over the two wires with the other hand. In addition, the guidewires are held far enough apart such that separate syringes can access each of channels 201 and 202, or separate luer fittings can be positioned to cover each of the proximal ends of channels 201 and 202.

[0082] The present invention further comprises kits comprising: any of the apparatus set forth herein, in combination with instructions for use setting forth any of the methods set forth herein. Referring to Fig. 23, a kit 200, comprising a catheter system 110 (or alternately 10) and instructions for use 202 is also provided. Instructions for use 202 may comprise instructions for use comprising any of the methods of use set forth herein, including methods for deploying a main stent such that a side hole in the main stent is positioned in registry with the ostium

of a branch vessel. Instructions for use 202 may be in written or machine readable form, as desired.

Claims

1. A catheter system (10), comprising:

a catheter (12) comprising a catheter body having a distal end, a proximal end, a main vessel guidewire lumen that is configured to receive a main vessel guidewire and a balloon (11) disposed near the distal end of the catheter body, the catheter further comprising a side portion (9) coupled to the catheter body, the side portion (9) having a lumen (15) configured to receive a side member (14,20) disposed adjacent the catheter body, the side member (14,20) having a distal end (16), a proximal end, and a branch vessel guidewire lumen configured to receive a branch vessel guidewire; and a stent (25) having a side hole (27) through a wall thereof, the stent (25) being disposed over the balloon (11), with the side member being disposable in the side hole from within the stent;

characterised in that the side portion (9) is configured to slidably receive the side member (14,20), whereby the side member (14,20) is slidably positionable with respect to the catheter body.

2. The catheter system (10) of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one radiopaque marker positioned on the catheter body; and
at least one radiopaque marker positioned on the side member (14,20).

3. The catheter system (10) of claim 2, wherein at least one radiopaque marker on the catheter body is adjacent at least one radiopaque marker on the side member (14,20).

4. The catheter system (10) of claim 2, wherein the radiopaque marker on the catheter body and on the side member (14,20) are positioned adjacent the side hole (27) in the stent (25).

5. The catheter system (10) of claim 2, wherein the at least one radiopaque marker on the catheter body comprises radiopaque markers positioned at a proximal end and a distal end of the stent (25).

6. The catheter system (10) of claim 2, wherein the at least one marker on the side member (14,20) is positioned at the distal end of the side member

(14,20).

7. The catheter system (10) of claim 1, wherein the side member (14,20) comprises a flexible side sheath.

8. The catheter system (10) of claim 1, further comprising a branch stent deployment device having a balloon (13), a guidewire lumen, and a branch vessel stent (40) disposed over the balloon (13), wherein the branch stent deployment device is adapted to be advanced over the branch stent guidewire lumen after removal of the side member.

9. The catheter system (10) of claim 1, wherein the inner surface of the connector lumen (15) comprises metal powders, glass beads, Teflon powder, or other inorganic fillers.

10. The catheter system (10) of claim 1, wherein the side member (14,20) is fixedly attached to at least a portion of the catheter body, and wherein the distal end of the side member (14,20) extends out of the side hole (27) of the stent (25).

11. The catheter system (10) of claim 1, further comprising a balloon (13) disposed at the distal end of the side member (14,20).

12. The catheter system (10) of claim 1, wherein the distal end of the side member (14,20) is tapered.

13. The catheter system (10) of claim 1, wherein the distal end of the side member (14,20) is fabricated from a fluoroscopically visible material.

14. The catheter system (10) of claim 1, wherein the catheter body and the side member (14,20) are fabricated from Pebax and graphite.

15. The catheter system (10) of claim 1, further comprising a branch stent (40) positioned on the side member (14,20).

16. The catheter system (10) of claim 1, further comprising a proximal end hub having a main vessel guidewire channel (M) that is coupled to the main vessel guidewire lumen, a branch vessel guidewire channel (Br) that is coupled to the branch vessel guidewire lumen, and a balloon inflation port.

17. The stent delivery system (10) of claim 16, wherein the main vessel and branch vessel guidewire channels (M, Br) are separated by about zero to about 20°.

18. The stent delivery system (10) of claim 10, wherein the distal end of the side member (14,20) is unat-

tached to the distal end of the main catheter (12).

19. The stent delivery system (10) of claim 18, wherein the length over which the distal end of the side member (14,20) is unattached to the distal end of the main catheter (12) is approximately 2 to approximately 10 cm.

20. A kit comprising:

a catheter system (10) as set forth in claim 1; and instructions for use setting forth a method for positioning the side hole (27) in the stent (25) in registry with the ostium of a branch vessel.

Patentansprüche

1. Kathetersystem (10), aufweisend:

einen Katheter (12), aufweisend einen Katheterkörper mit einem distalen Ende, einem proximalen Ende, einem Hauptgefäß-Führungsdrahtlumen zur Aufnahme eines Hauptgefäß-Führungsdrahtes und einem Ballon (11), der in der Nähe des distalen Endes des Katheterkörpers angeordnet ist, wobei der Katheter weiterhin einen mit dem Katheterkörper verbundenen Seitenabschnitt (9) aufweist, wobei der Seitenabschnitt (9) ein Lumen (15) zur Aufnahme eines Seitengliedes (14, 20) hat, das an den Katheterkörper angrenzt, wobei das Seitenglied (14, 20) ein distales Ende (16), ein proximales Ende und ein Nebengefäß-Führungsdrahtlumen zur Aufnahme eines Nebengefäß-Führungsdrahtes hat, und

einen Stent (25), der ein Seitenloch (27) hat, das sich in einer Wand des Stents befindet, wobei der Stent (25) über den Ballon (11) geschoben ist, wobei das Seitenglied aus dem Inneren des Stents heraus in das Seitenloch einführbar ist,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass das Seitenglied (14, 20) im Seitenabschnitt (9) gleiten kann, wodurch das Seitenglied (14, 20) in Bezug auf den Katheterkörper gleitend positionierbar ist.

2. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin aufweisend:

mindestens einen strahlendichten Marker auf dem Katheterkörper, und
mindestens einen strahlendichten Marker auf dem Seitenglied (14, 20).

3. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 2, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** mindestens ein strahlendichter Marker auf dem Katheterkörper an mindestens einen strahlendichten Marker auf dem Seitenglied (14, 20) angrenzt.

4. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 2, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der strahlendichte Marker auf dem Katheterkörper und der strahlendichte Marker auf dem Seitenglied (14, 20) an das Seitenloch (27) im Stent (25) angrenzen.

5. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 2, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der mindestens eine strahlendichte Marker auf dem Katheterkörper strahlendichte Marker aufweist, die sich an einem proximalen Ende und einem distalen Ende des Stents (25) befinden.

6. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 2, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** sich der mindestens eine Marker auf dem Seitenglied (14, 20) am distalen Ende des Seitengliedes (14, 20) befindet.

7. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Seitenglied (14, 20) eine elastische Seitenhülse aufweist.

8. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin aufweisend eine Nebenstent-Positioniervorrichtung mit einem Ballon (13), einem Führungsdrahtlumen und einem Nebengefäßstent (40), der über den Ballon (13) geschoben ist, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** nach dem Entfernen des Seitengliedes die Nebenstent-Positioniervorrichtung über das Nebenstent-Führungsdrahtlumen vorwärts bewegt wird.

9. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Innenfläche des Anschlusslumens (15) Metallpulver, Glasperlen, Teflonpulver oder andere anorganische Füllstoffe aufweist.

10. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Seitenglied (14, 20) zumindest an einem Teil des Katheterkörpers befestigt ist und dass sich das distale Ende des Seitengliedes (14, 20) aus dem Seitenloch (27) des Stents (25) heraus erstreckt.

11. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin aufweisend einen Ballon (13) am distalen Ende des Seitengliedes (14, 20).

12. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das distale Ende des Seitengliedes (14, 20) spitz zuläuft.

13. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das distale Ende des Seitengliedes (14, 20) aus einem fluoroskopisch sichtbaren Werkstoff hergestellt ist. 5
14. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Katheterkörper und das Seitenglied (14, 20) aus Pebax und Graphit hergestellt sind. 10
15. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin aufweisend einen Nebenstent (40) auf dem Seitenglied (14, 20). 15
16. Das Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin aufweisend ein Zusammenführungsglied am proximalen Ende mit einem Hauptgefäß-Führungsdrahtkanal (M), der mit dem Hauptgefäß-Führungsdrahtlumen verbunden ist, einem Nebengefäß-Führungsdrahtkanal (Br), der mit dem Nebengefäß-Führungsdrahtlumen verbunden ist, und einer Ballonaufblasöffnung. 20
17. Das Stentzuführungssystem (10) nach Anspruch 16, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Hauptgefäß- und Nebengefäß-Führungsdrahtkanäle (M, Br) durch einen Winkel von ca. 0° bis ca. 20° voneinander getrennt sind. 25
18. Das Stentzuführungssystem (10) nach Anspruch 10, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das distale Ende des Seitengliedes (14, 20) nicht am distalen Ende des Hauptkatheters (12) befestigt ist. 30
19. Das Stentzuführungssystem (10) nach Anspruch 18, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das distale Ende des Seitengliedes (14, 20) über eine Länge von ca. 2 cm bis ca. 10 cm nicht am distalen Ende des Hauptkatheters (12) befestigt ist. 35
20. Set, umfassend: 40
- ein Kathetersystem (10) nach Anspruch 1, und
- eine Gebrauchsanweisung, die ein Verfahren zur genauen Ausrichtung des Seitenloches (27) im Stent (25) auf das Ostium eines Nebengefäßes erläutert. 45

Revendications

1. Système de cathéter (10), comprenant :

un cathéter (12) comprenant un corps de cathéter ayant une extrémité distale, une extrémité proximale, une lumière de guide souple pour vaisseau principal qui est configurée pour re-

cevoir un guide souple pour vaisseau principal et un ballonnet (11) disposé près de l'extrémité distale du corps de cathéter, le cathéter comprenant en outre une partie latérale (9) couplée au corps de cathéter, la partie latérale (9) ayant une lumière (15) configurée pour recevoir un élément latéral (14, 20) disposé de manière adjacente au corps de cathéter, l'élément latéral (14, 20) ayant une extrémité distale (16), une extrémité proximale et une lumière de guide souple pour vaisseau ramifié configurée pour recevoir un guide souple pour vaisseau ramifié ; et un stent (25) ayant un trou latéral (27) à travers sa paroi, le stent (25) étant disposé sur le ballonnet (11), l'élément latéral pouvant être disposé dans le trou latéral depuis l'intérieur du stent ;

caractérisé en ce que la partie latérale (9) est configurée pour recevoir de manière coulissante l'élément latéral (14, 20), moyennant quoi l'élément latéral (14, 20) peut être positionné de manière coulissante par rapport au corps de cathéter.

2. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre :

au moins un marqueur radio-opaque positionné sur le corps de cathéter ; et
au moins un marqueur radio-opaque positionné sur l'élément latéral (14, 20).

3. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 2, dans lequel au moins un marqueur radio-opaque sur le corps de cathéter est adjacent à au moins un marqueur radio-opaque sur l'élément latéral (14, 20). 50

4. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 2, dans lequel les marqueurs radio-opaques sur le corps de cathéter et sur l'élément latéral (14, 20) sont positionnés de manière adjacente au trou latéral (27) dans le stent (25). 45

5. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 2, dans lequel au moins un marqueur radio-opaque sur le corps de cathéter comprend des marqueurs radio-opaques positionnés au niveau d'une extrémité proximale et d'une extrémité distale du stent (25). 50

6. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 2, dans lequel le au moins un marqueur sur l'élément latéral (14, 20) est positionné au niveau de l'extrémité distale de l'élément latéral (14, 20). 55

7. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 1,

dans lequel l'élément latéral (14, 20) comprend une gaine latérale souple.

8. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre un dispositif de déploiement de stent ramifié ayant un ballonnet (13), une lumière de guide souple, et un stent pour vaisseau ramifié (40) disposé sur le ballonnet (13), dans lequel le dispositif de déploiement de stent ramifié est adapté pour être avancé par la lumière de guide souple pour stent ramifié après retrait de l'élément latéral. 5
9. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la surface intérieure de la lumière de raccordement (15) comprend des poudres métalliques, des billes de verre, de la poudre de Téflon ou d'autres charges inorganiques. 10
10. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'élément latéral (14, 20) est fixé à au moins une partie du corps de cathéter, et dans lequel l'extrémité distale de l'élément latéral (14, 20) s'étend hors du trou latéral (27) du stent (25). 15
11. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre un ballonnet (13) disposé au niveau de l'extrémité distale de l'élément latéral (14, 20). 20
12. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'extrémité distale de l'élément latéral (14, 20) est aminci. 25
13. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'extrémité distale de l'élément latéral (14, 20) est fabriqué à partir d'un matériau fluoroscopiquement visible. 30
14. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le corps de cathéter et l'élément latéral (14, 20) sont fabriqués à partir de Pebax et de graphite. 35
15. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre un stent ramifié (40) positionné sur l'élément latéral (14, 20). 40
16. Système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre un raccord d'extrémité proximale ayant un canal (M) de guide souple pour vaisseau principal qui est couplé à la lumière de guide souple pour vaisseau principal, un canal (Br) de guide souple pour vaisseau ramifié qui est couplé à la lumière de guide souple pour vaisseau ramifié, et un orifice de gonflage du ballonnet. 45
17. Système de mise en place du stent (10) selon la revendication 16, dans lequel les canaux (M, Br) de 50

guide souple pour vaisseau principal et vaisseau ramifié sont séparés par un angle d'environ 0 à 20°.

18. Système de mise en place du stent (10) selon la revendication 10, dans lequel l'extrémité distale de l'élément latéral (14, 20) n'est pas fixé à l'extrémité distale du cathéter principal (12). 55
19. Système de mise en place du stent (10) selon la revendication 18, dans lequel la longueur sur laquelle l'extrémité distale de l'élément latéral (14, 20) n'est pas fixée à l'extrémité distale du cathéter principal (12) est approximativement de 2 à approximativement 10 cm.
20. Trousse comprenant :
 - un système de cathéter (10) selon la revendication 1 ; et
 - un mode d'emploi présentant une méthode pour positionner le trou latéral (27) dans le stent (25) en alignement avec l'orifice d'un vaisseau ramifié.

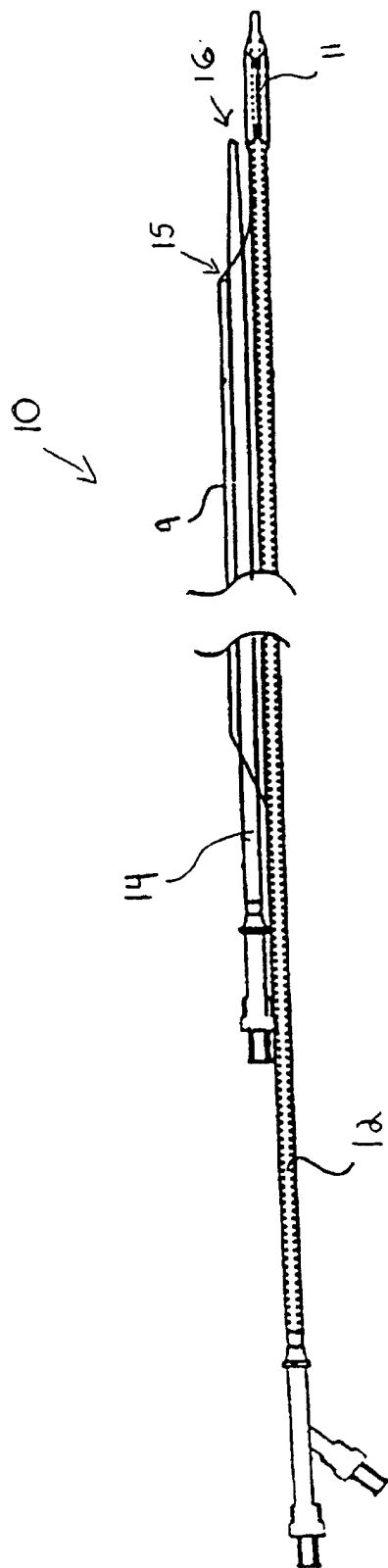


FIG 1

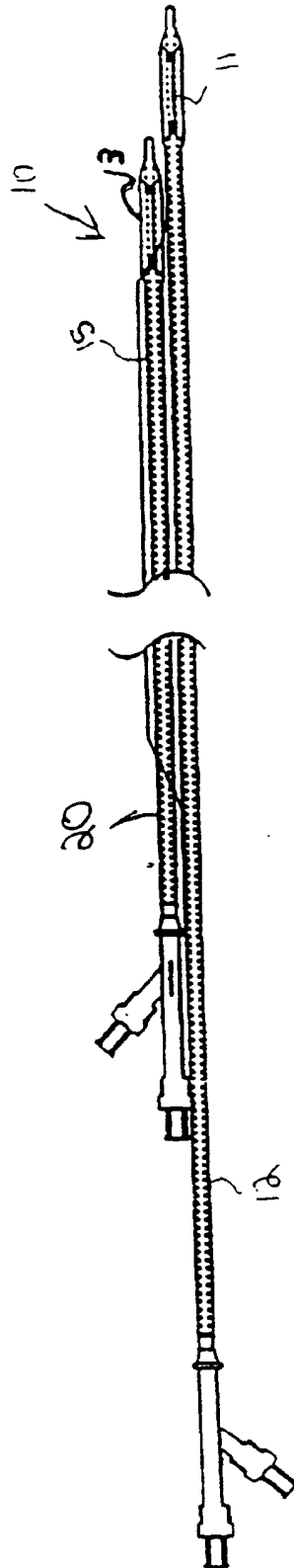


FIG 2

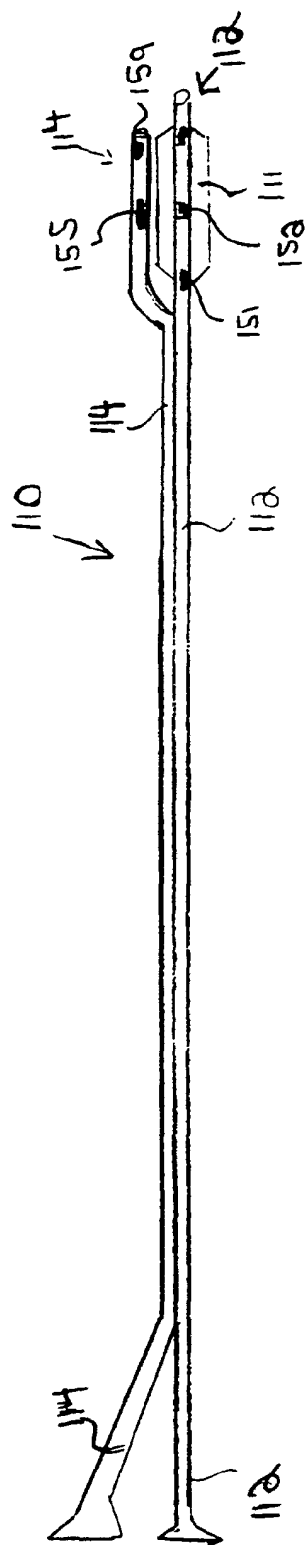
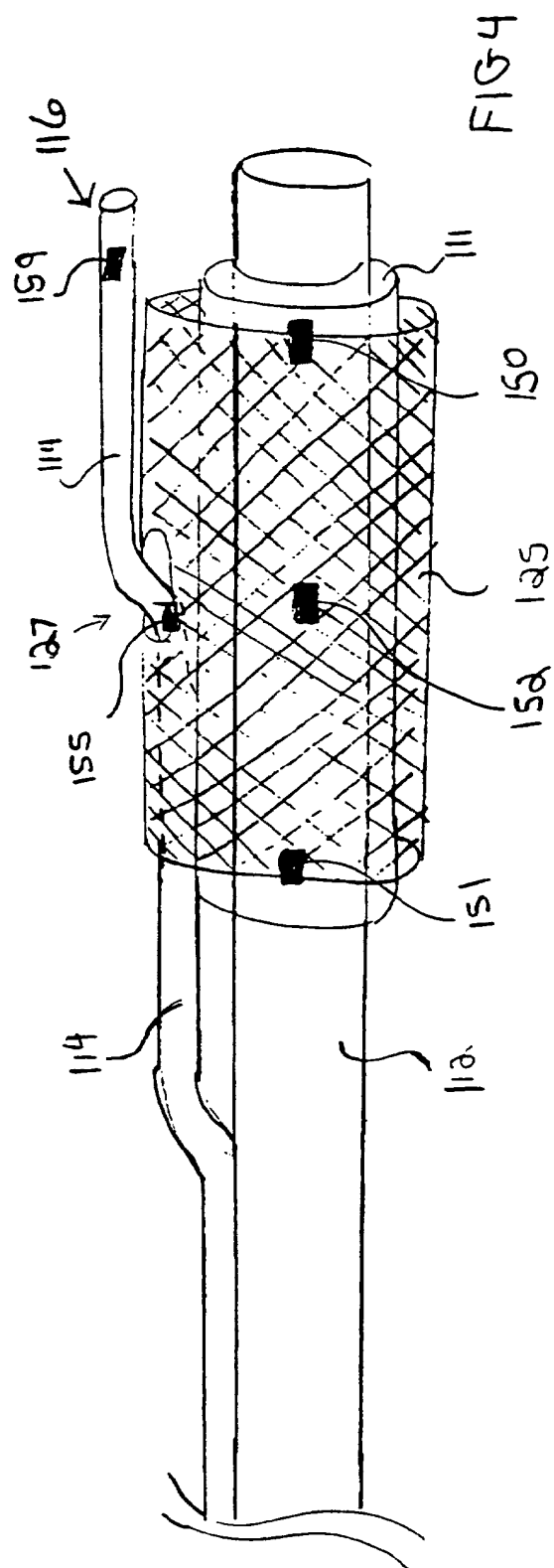
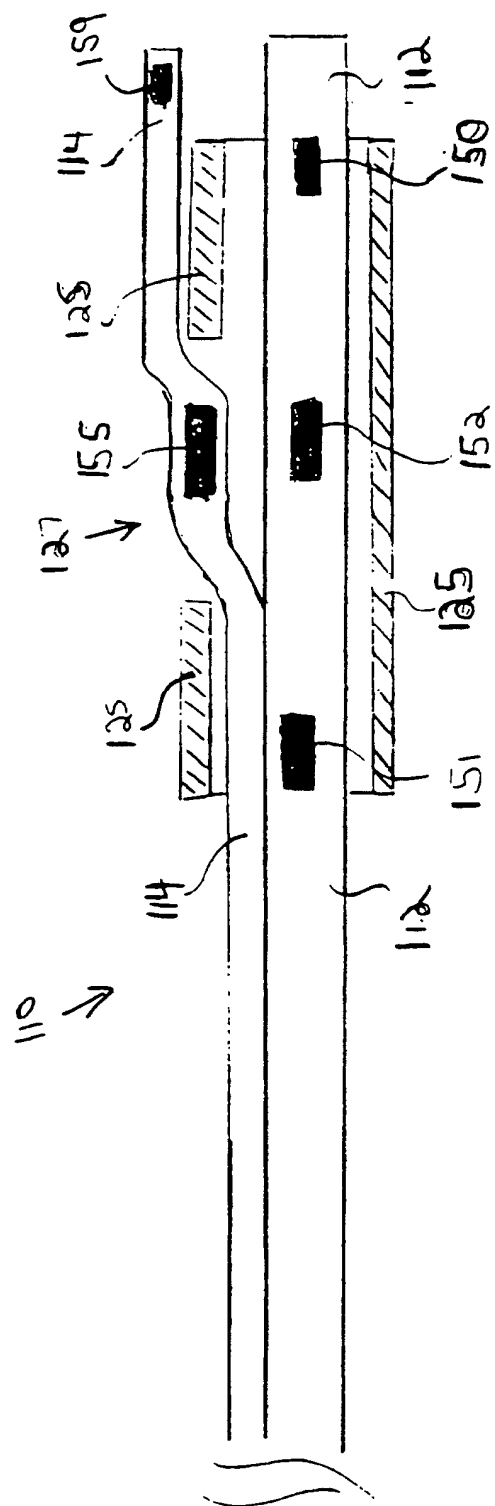
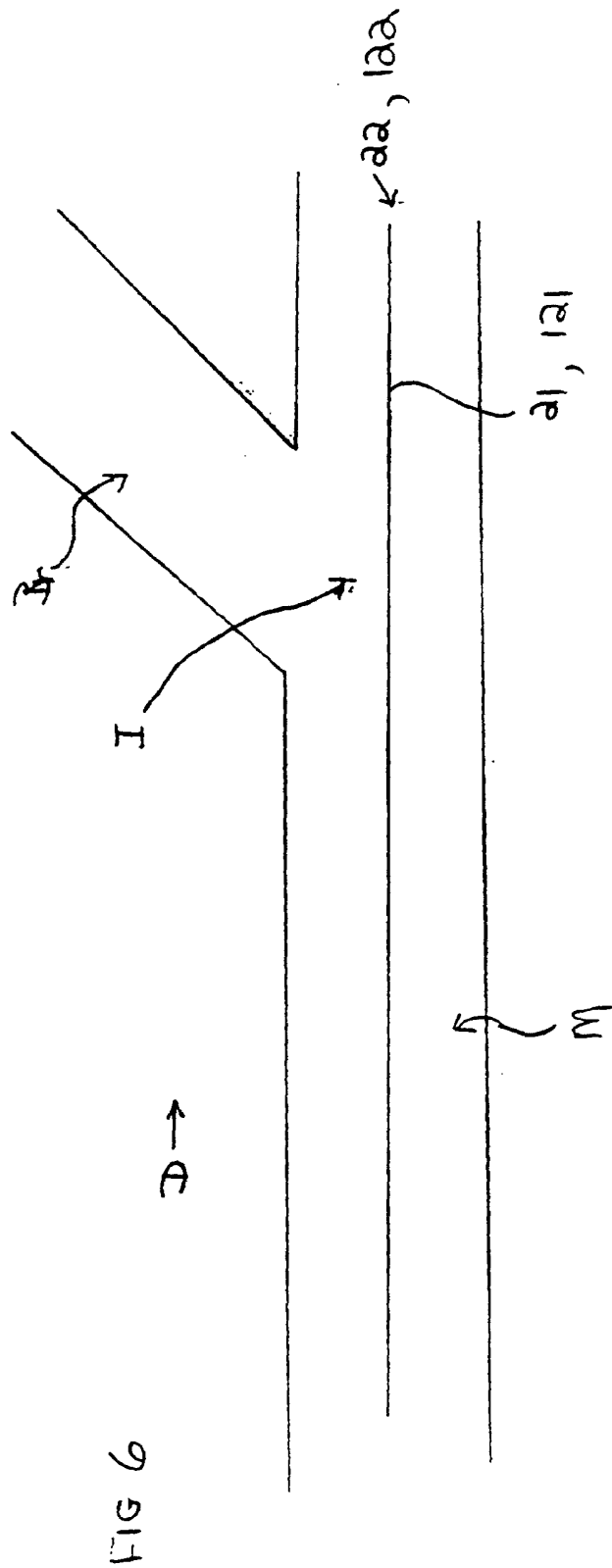
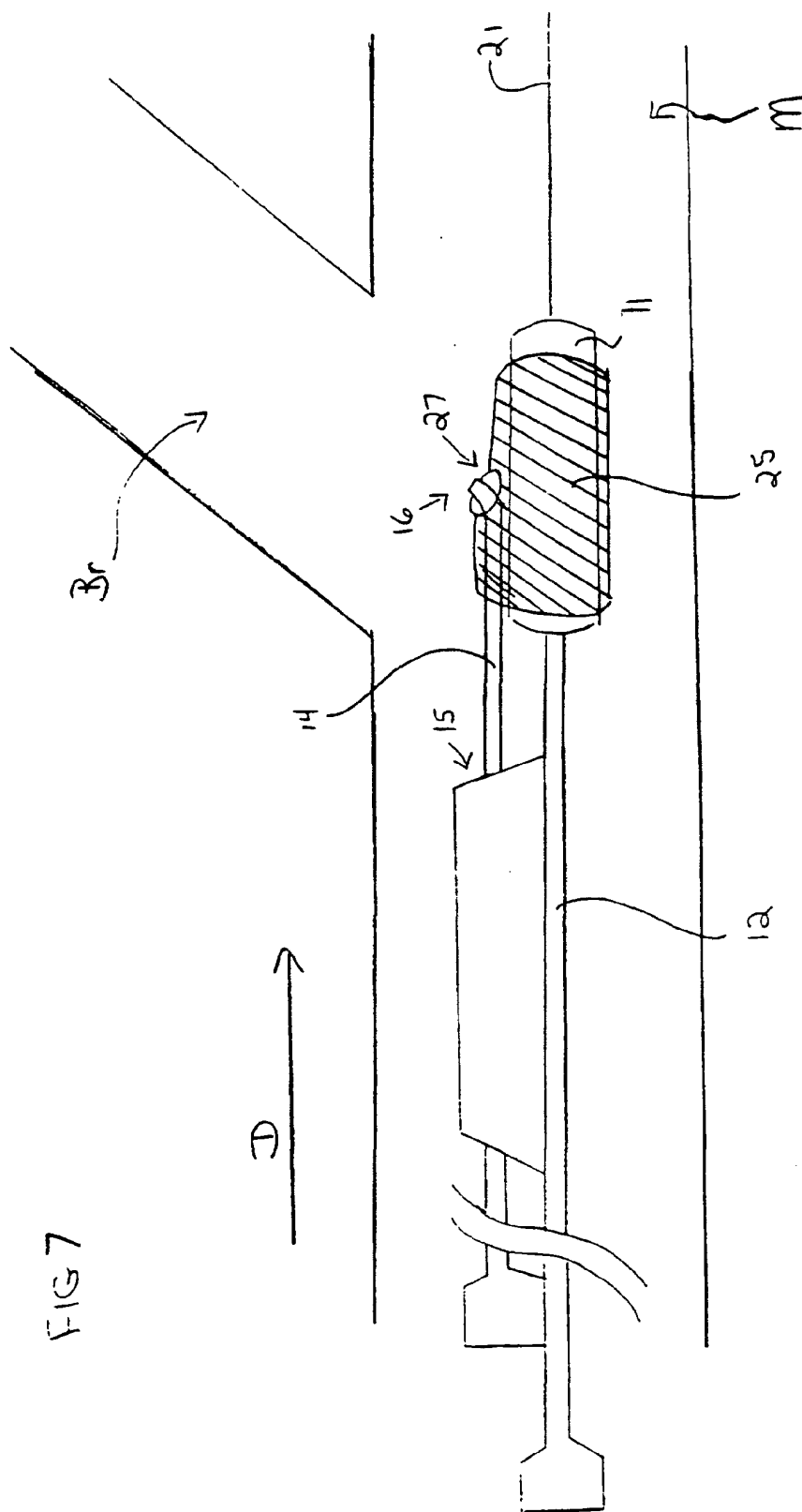


FIG 3









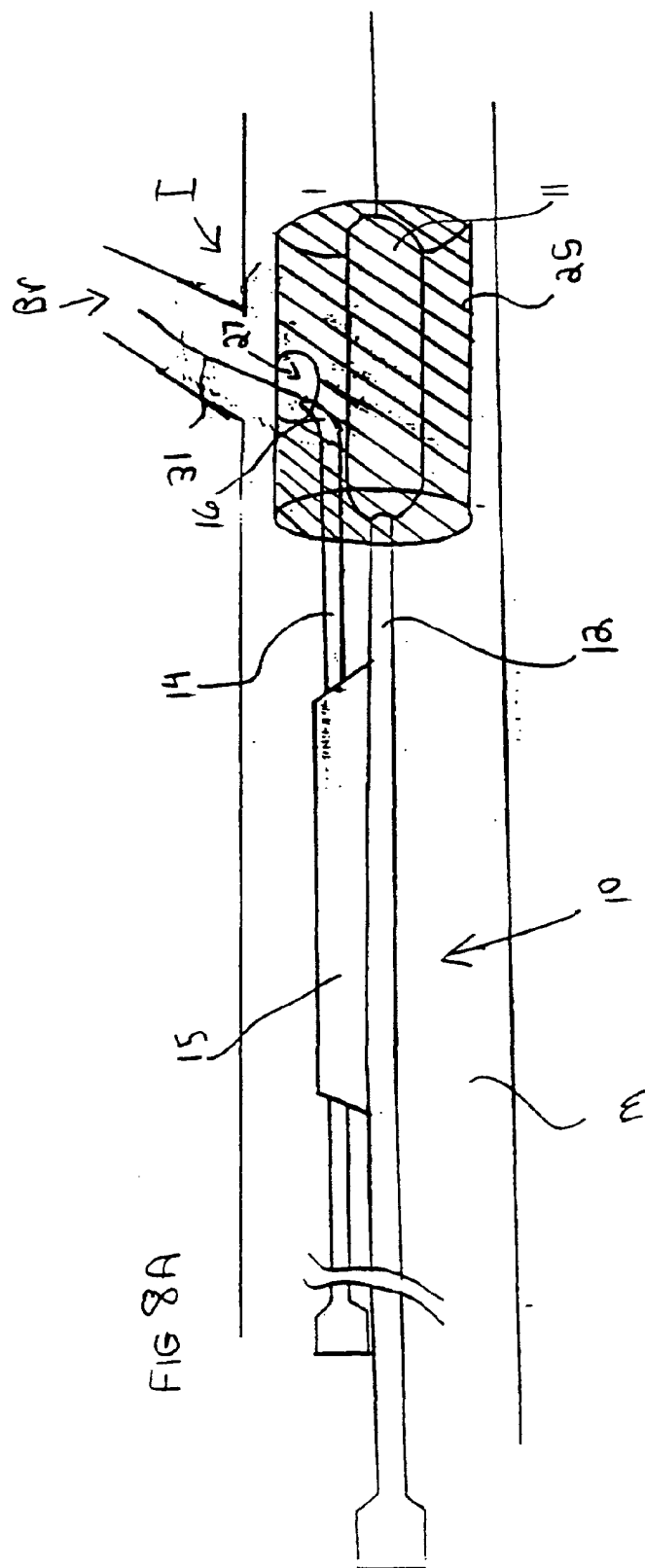
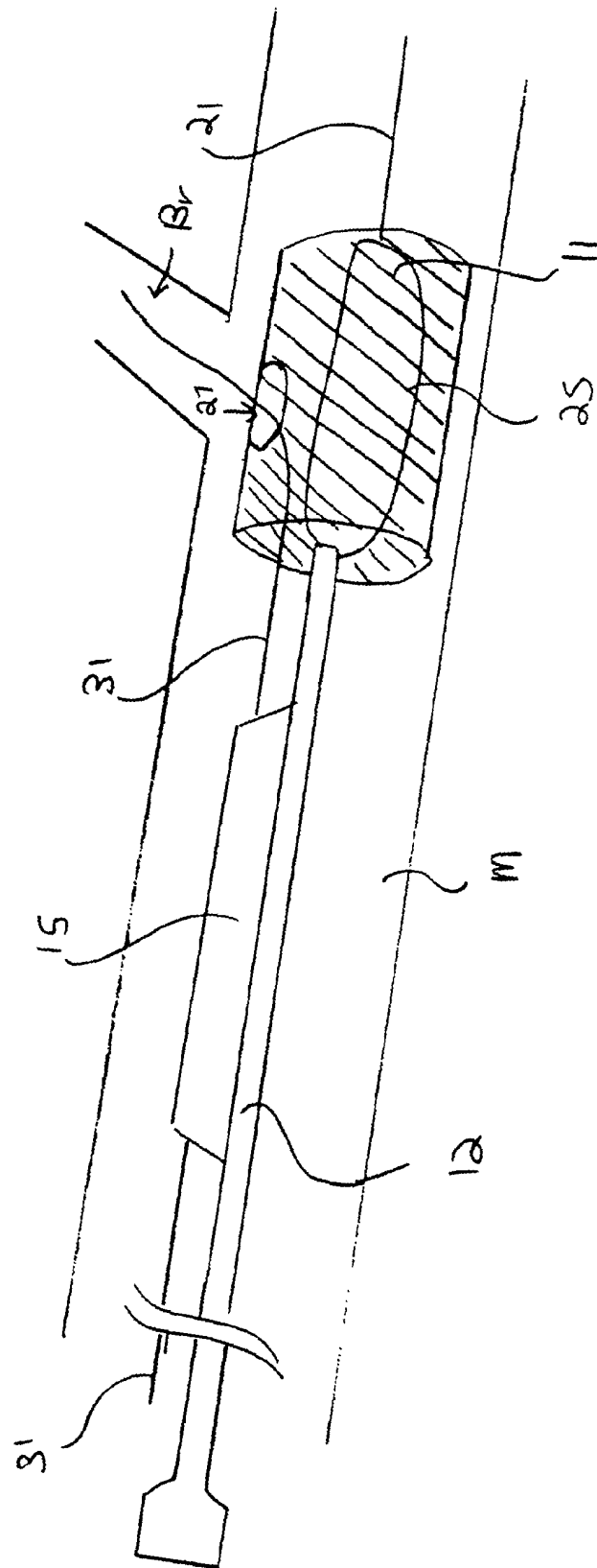
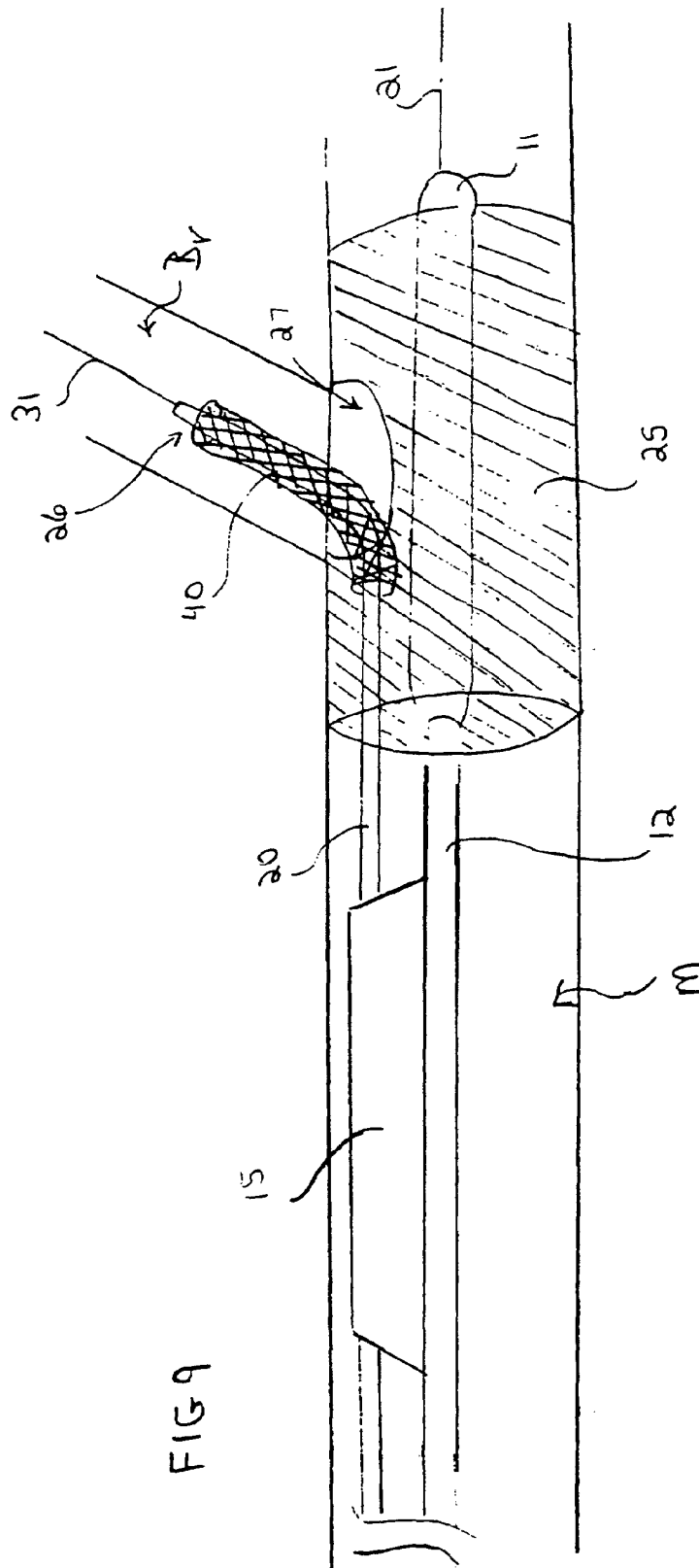


FIG 8B





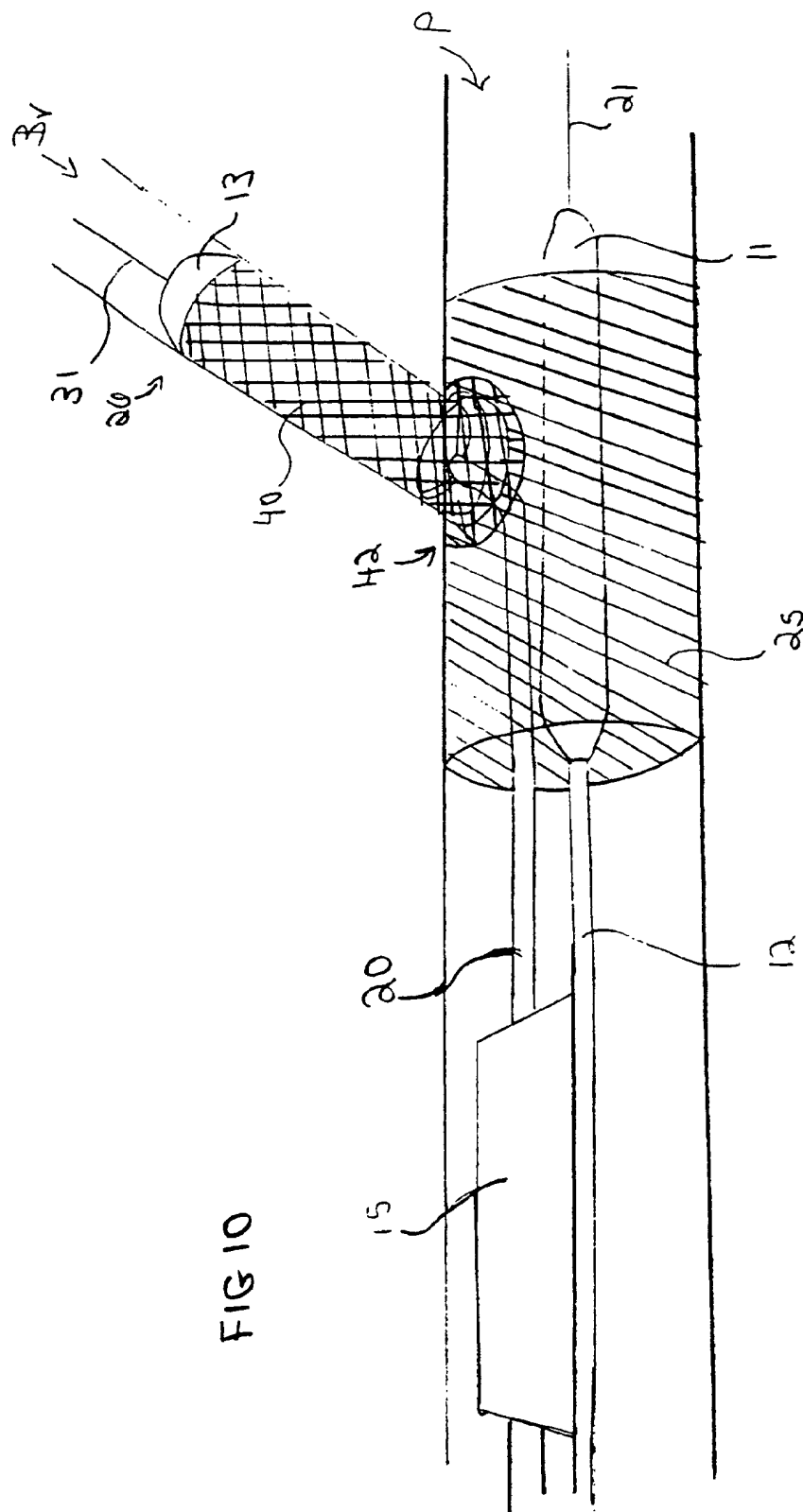
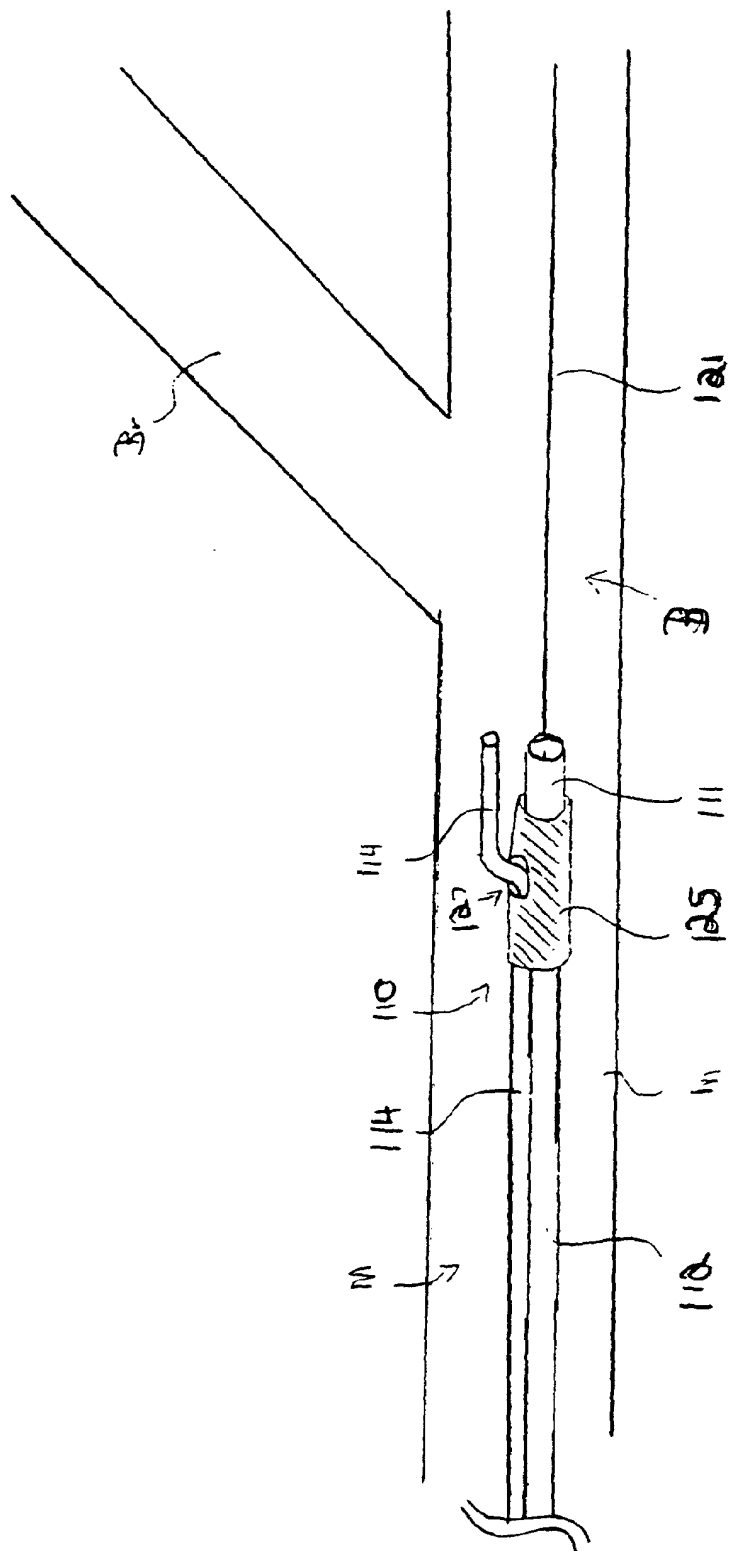
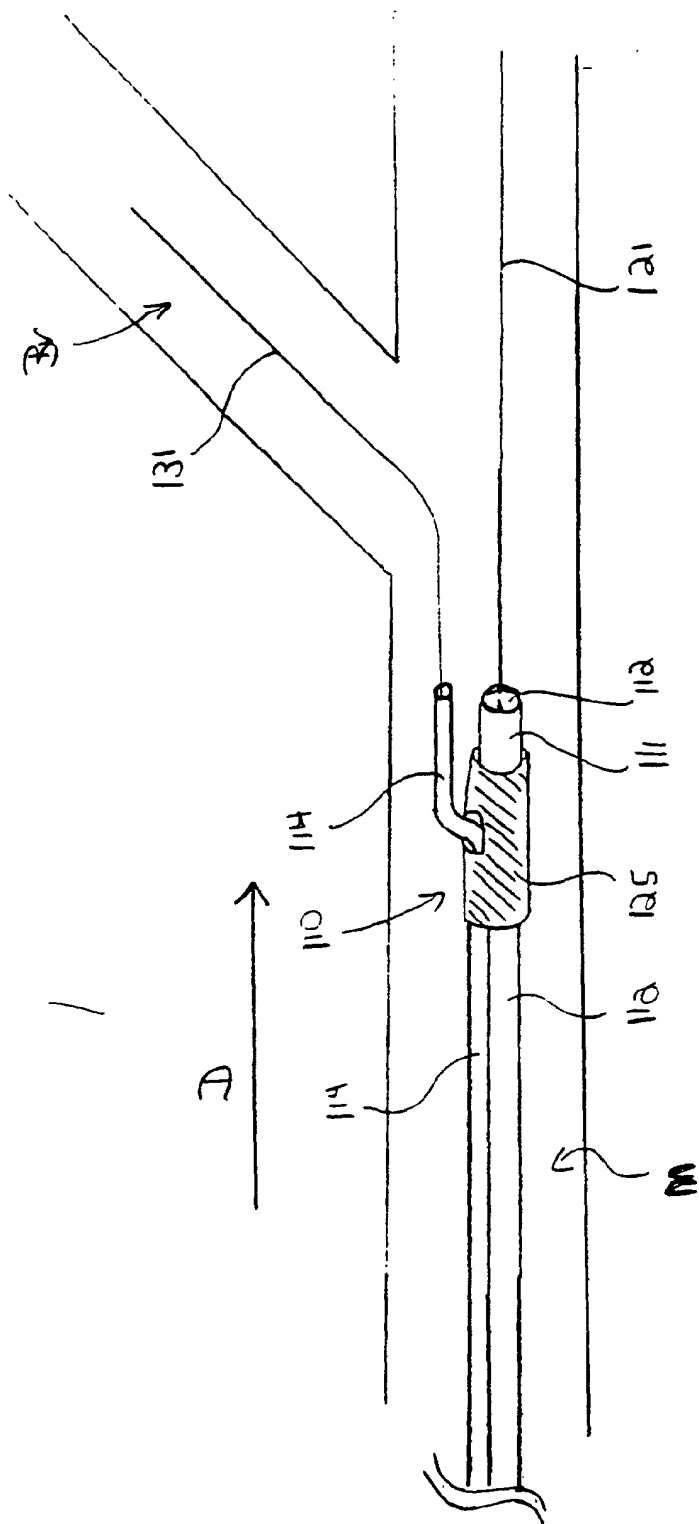


FIG 10



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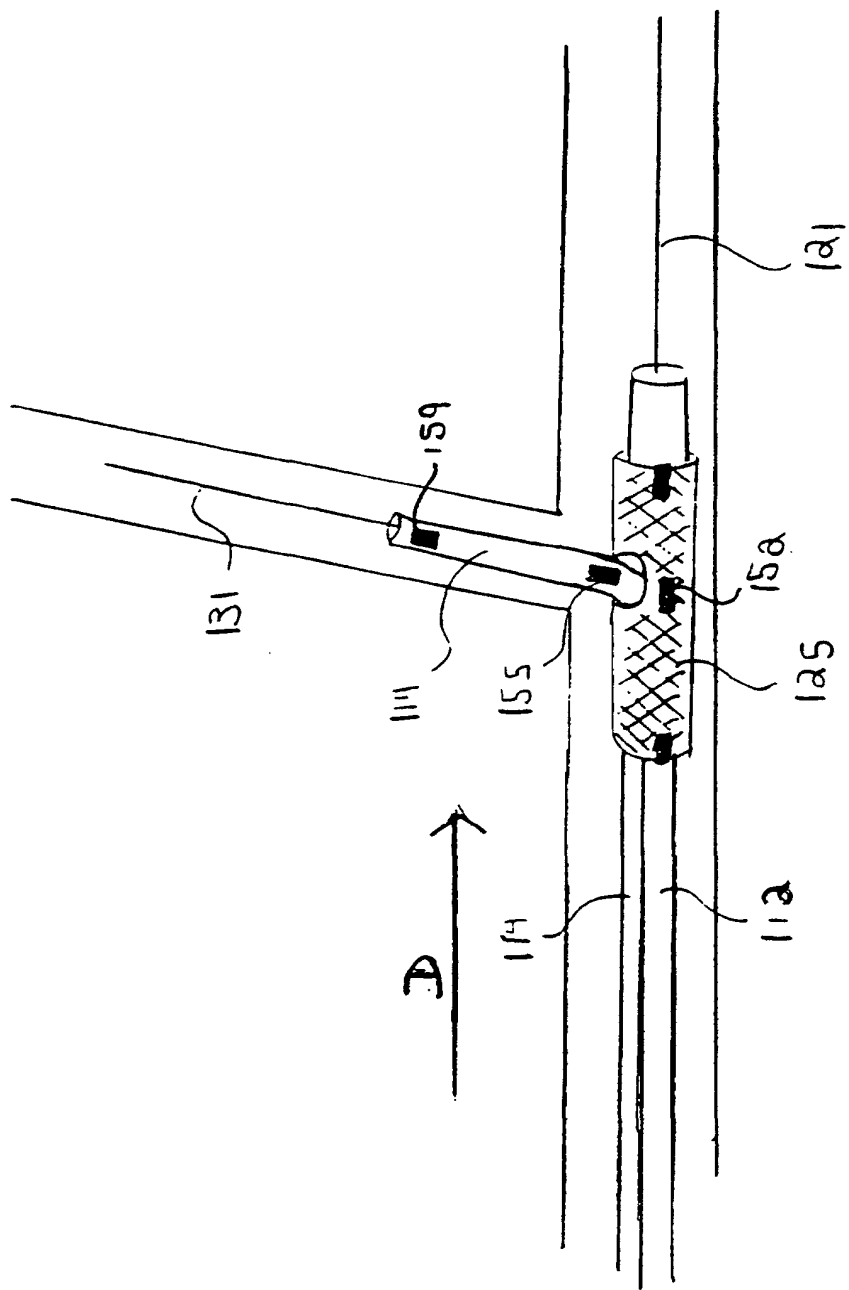
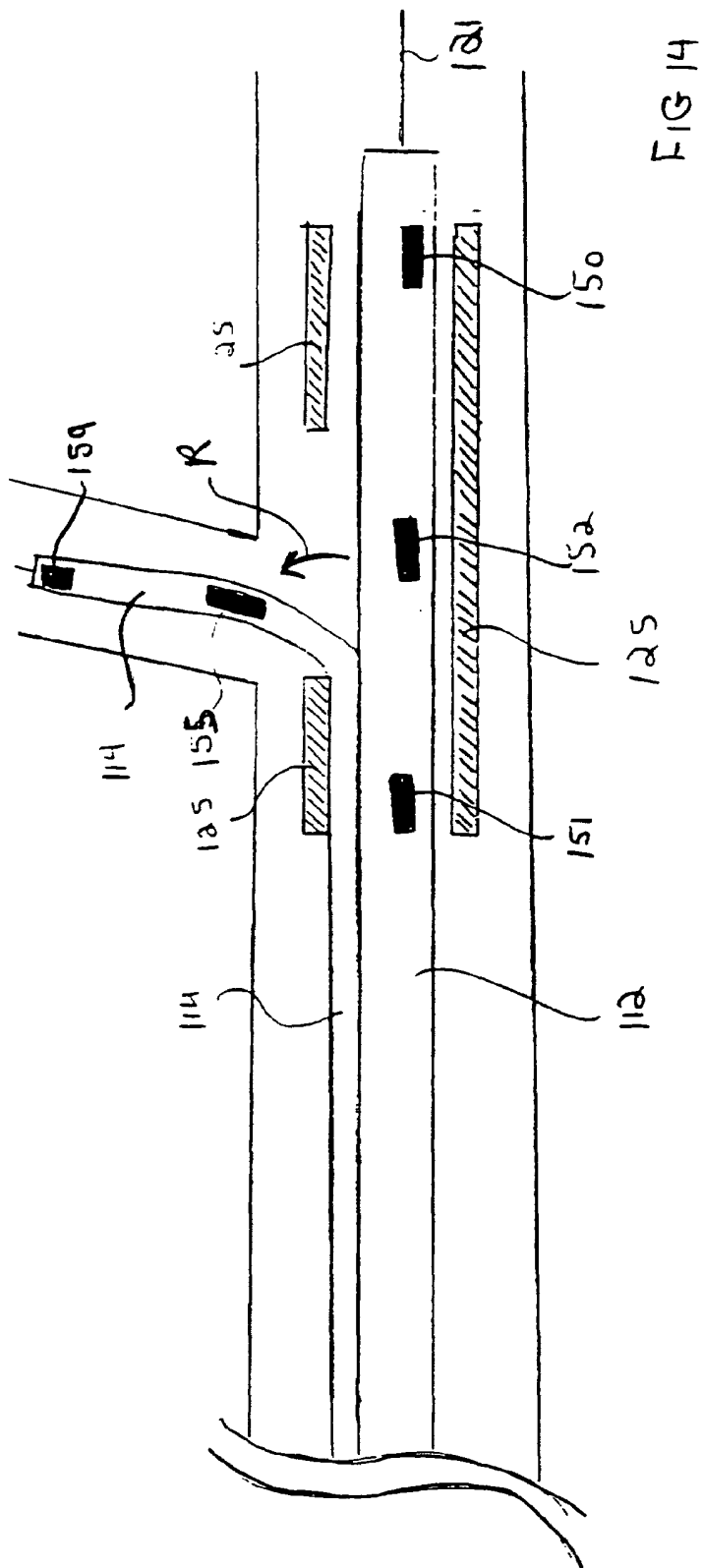
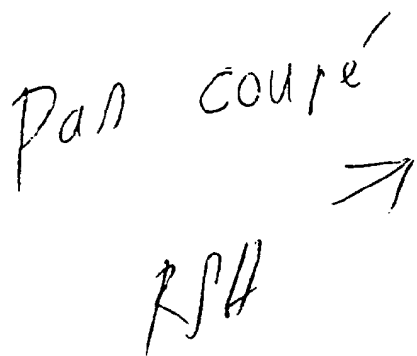
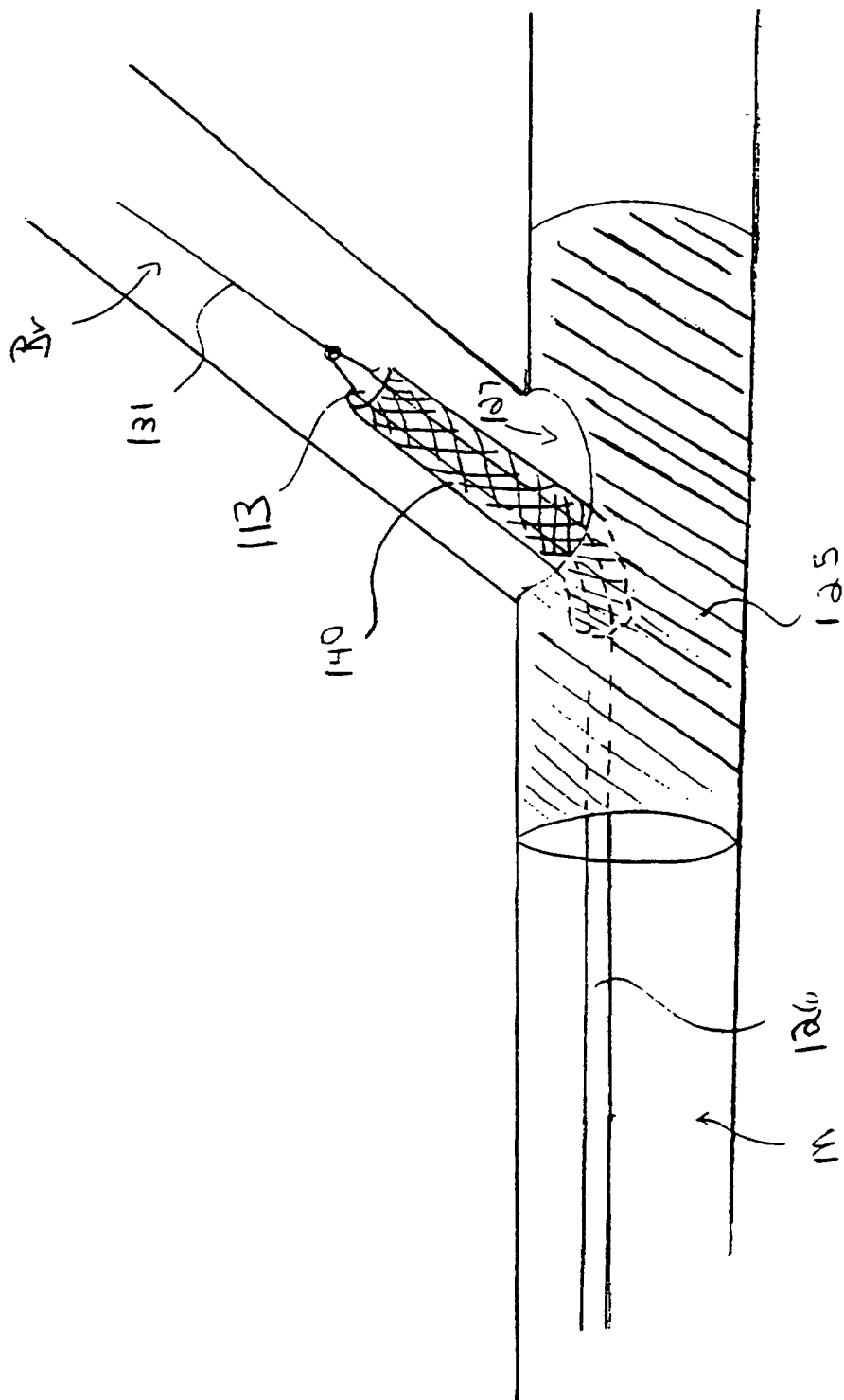


FIG 13





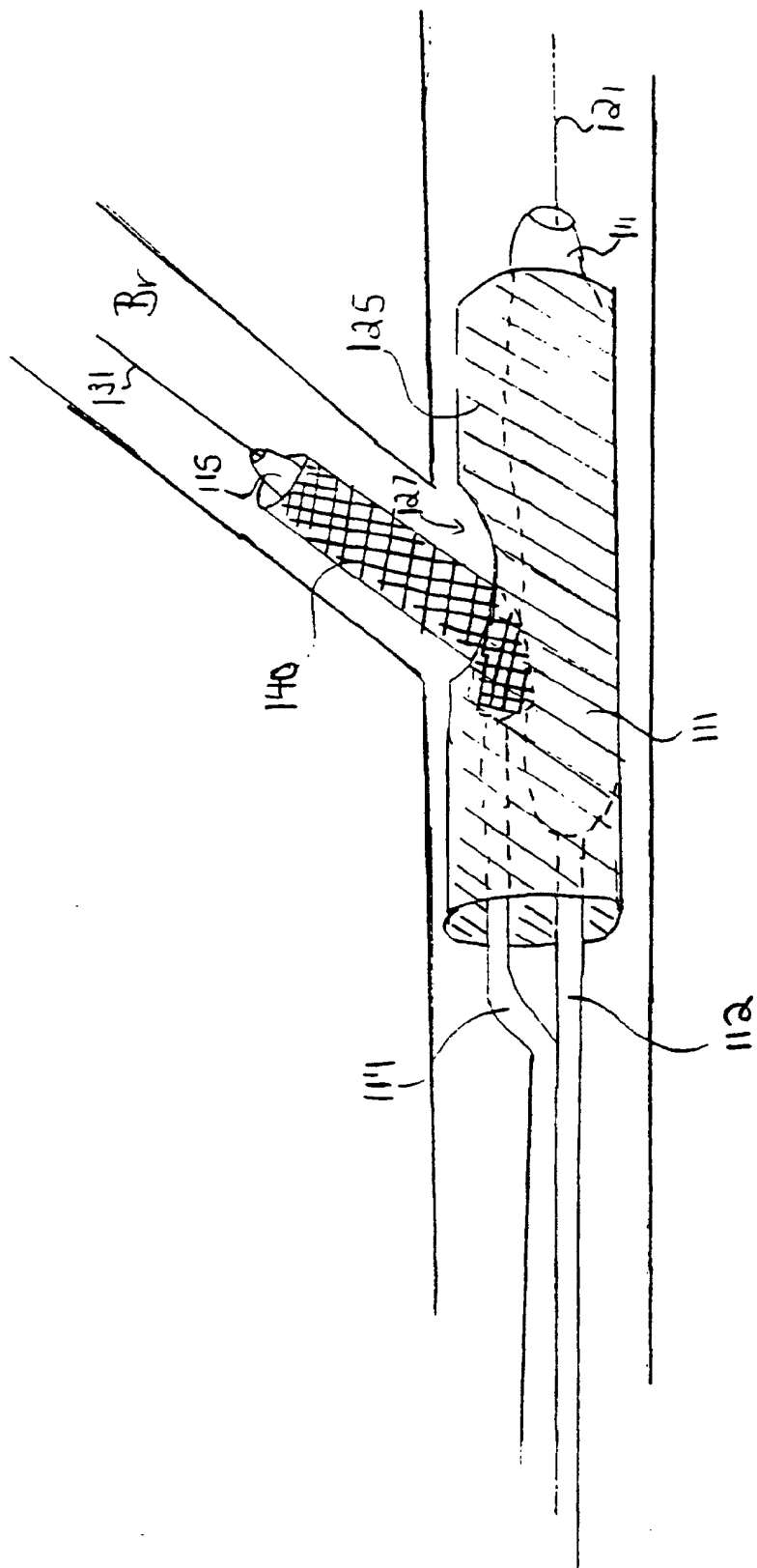


Fig 16

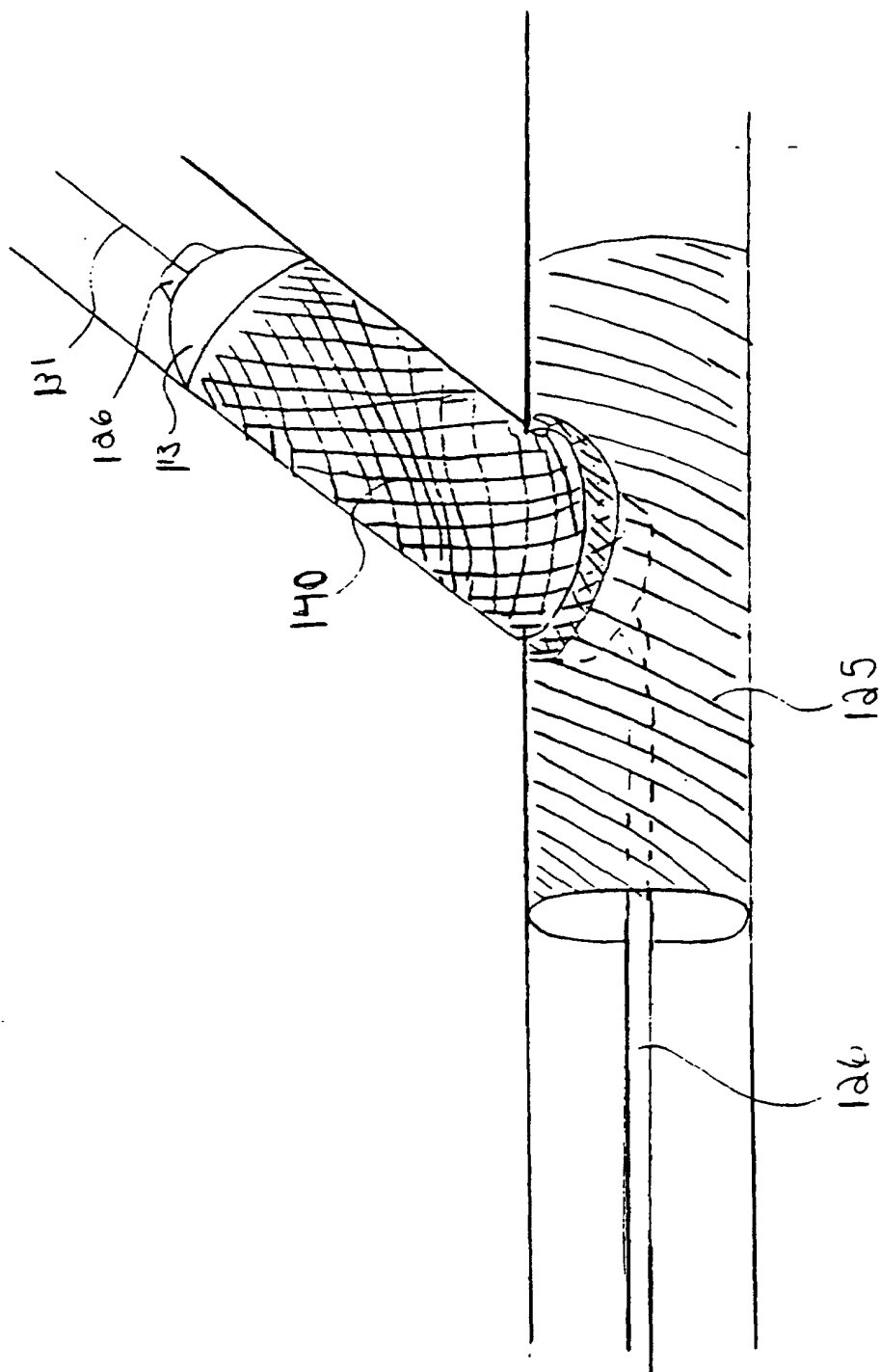
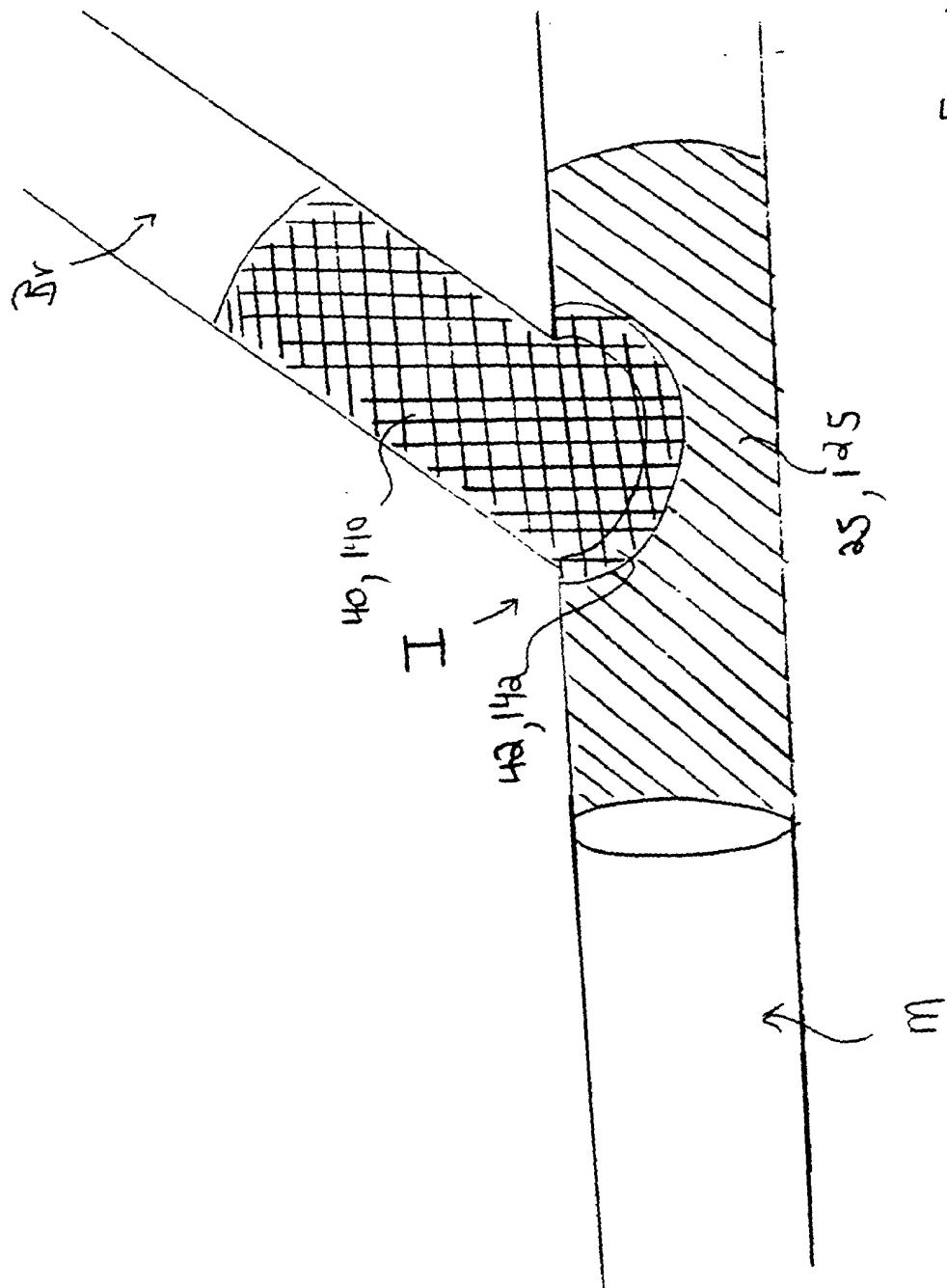


Fig 17



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1
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4

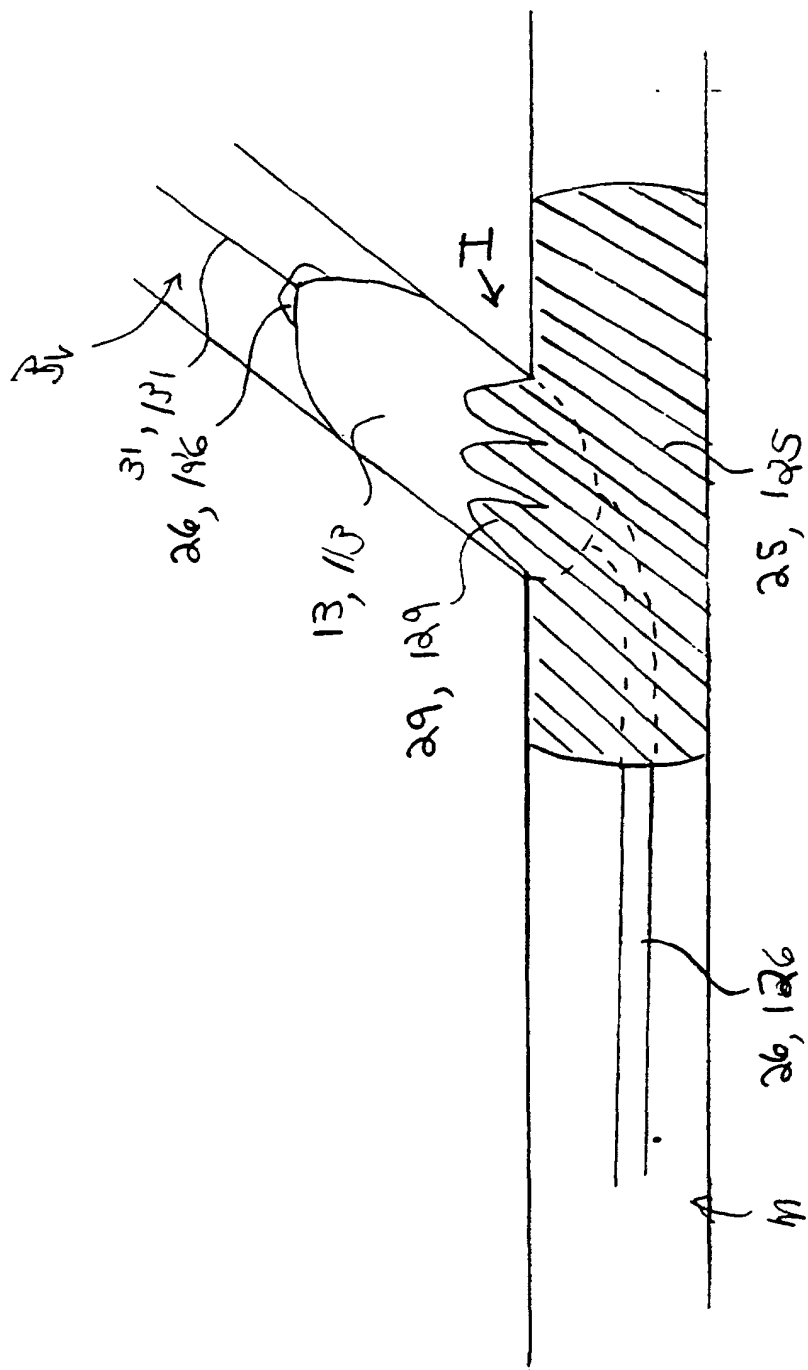


FIG 19

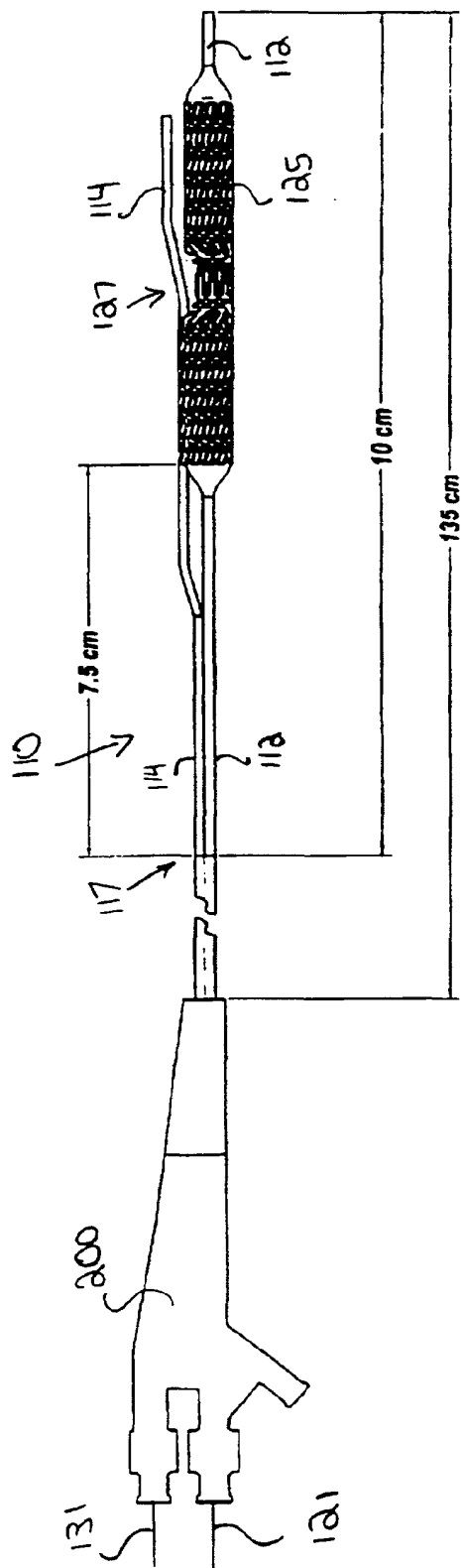
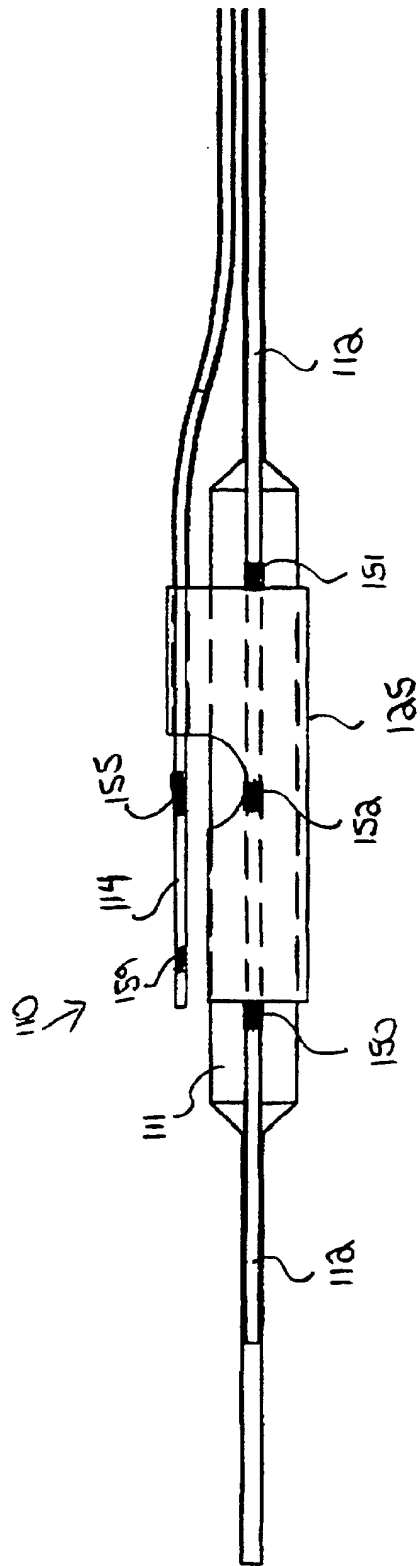
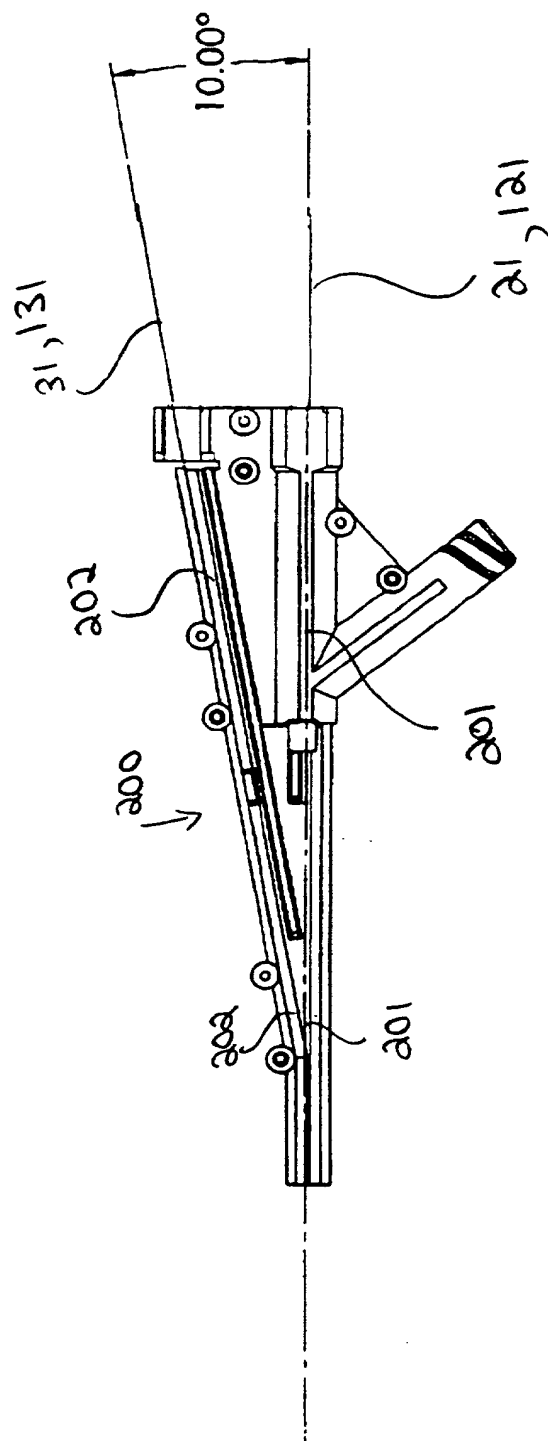


FIG. 20



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